■ Magazine / Q1
Toni Gonzaga has hit the big-time

■ Metro / A23
Man in wheelchair goes the distance

■ Lifestyle / E1
Ms Universe mentor is a Pinoy

■ Entertainment / A33
Joey de Leon's suspension lifted

■ Job Market
With 400 job vacancies

■ Sports / A25
Rosales running 2nd in LPGA tourney

Gov't doesn't regret sending troops to Iraq

By TJ Burgonio

THE PHILIPPINE government has "no regrets" about its decision last year to deploy a small contingent to Iraq in support of the United States' occupation of that Middle Eastern country.

Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo stressed

GOV'T/ A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

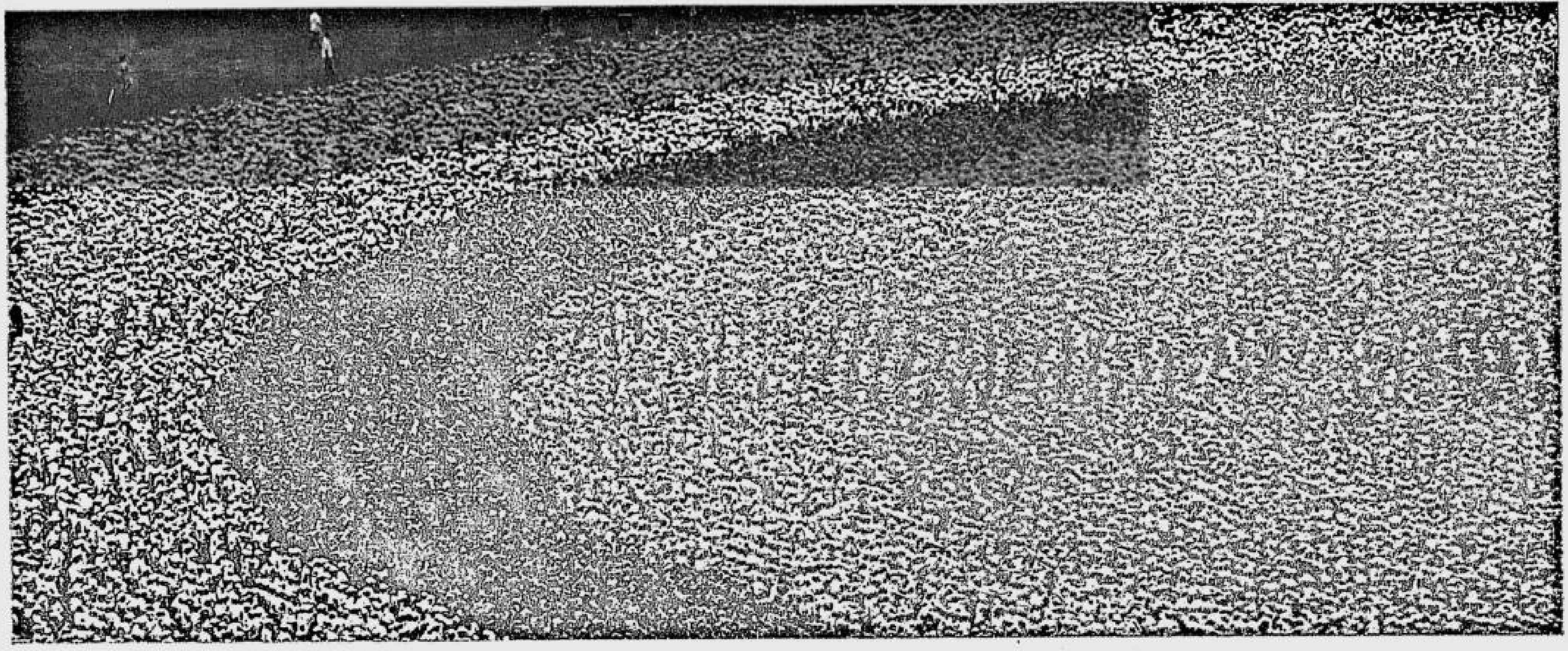
Advocates say lethal injection not so painless

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky—Lethal injection, when used for the first time in Texas nearly 22 years ago, was touted as a more humane way to execute prisoners than a firing squad, hanging, the gas chamber or even the electric chair.

Today, though, death penalty opponents are challenging that notion based on the US

ADVOCATES / A20

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Sunday, September 19, 2004 ★★ 92 pages / 12 sections / vol. 19 / no. 284 P18 website: www.inq7.net



HUMAN RAINBOW

REUTERS

Some 35,000 students, teachers and employees of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) fill Rizal Park with the seven colors of the rainbow as they form what they hope would be the "world's biggest human rainbow" as part of the state university's centenary celebration. The previous biggest was the 11,273-man rainbow in Hong Kong as listed in the Guinness Book of World Records. PUP said yesterday's effort was also an attempt to send a message of hope and unity to the rest of the world. *(Story on Page A23.)*

No escaping pain package

'Road map to recovery' entails new taxes, higher prices

By Christine A. Gaylican

THERE is no avoiding the "pain package" of new taxes and power rate adjustments that is seen as the only immediate remedy to a threatening fiscal crisis.

Filipinos will pay more for every cigarette they light, every liter of gasoline they burn and every kilowatt-hour of electricity they consume in order for the government to immediately raise an estimated P19 billion in revenues by next year.

But the burden of the fiscal remedy recommended by the country's economic managers would be carefully shared and ultimately imposed only on "those who can afford it," said Albay Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda, chair of the House committee on economic affairs and one of President Macapagal-Arroyo's economic advisers.

"Our task is to put a sick government into intensive care and radical surgery and insulate the private sector from the contagion via an interest rate shock and prevent the crisis from bursting into full-blown financial and economic crises," said Salceda, who outlined the administration's road map for fiscal rehabilitation at a presentation at the University of Philippines School of Economics on Friday.

He said the road map was the administration's response to the challenge raised by the 11 UP economics professors who recently warned that the country was on the brink of fiscal collapse and prescribed the steps to be taken to avert it.

The government's economic managers have recommended that legislation be enacted calling for the indexation of taxes on cigarettes and liquor, the so-called sin taxes; an adjustment on the taxes on petroleum; and an increase in power rates.

The ultimate goal is to raise P215 billion. This would come from the P166 billion "pain package" consisting of new taxes, power rate increases and spending cuts; P32 billion from tax-efficiency measures, and P30 billion in interest savings from the privatization of National Power Corp., the financially ailing state-owned power-generating firm.

Salceda said the government must present a most credible road map to justify to its creditors why they should agree to roll back the country's maturing debt another two to three years.

The President said the other day that it was important to send a signal to the international business community that the Philippines had the political will to address the deepening crisis, adding that this would result in a reduction of the interest the country has to pay on its debts, thereby freeing more funds for public services.

By 2005, debt servicing alone would amount to $4.5 billion, or 50 percent higher than the yearly average of $3 billion spent to finance the debt from 2001 to 2003.

NO ESCAPING/ A8

Now, it's Miriam vs giant billboards

By Michael Lim Ubac

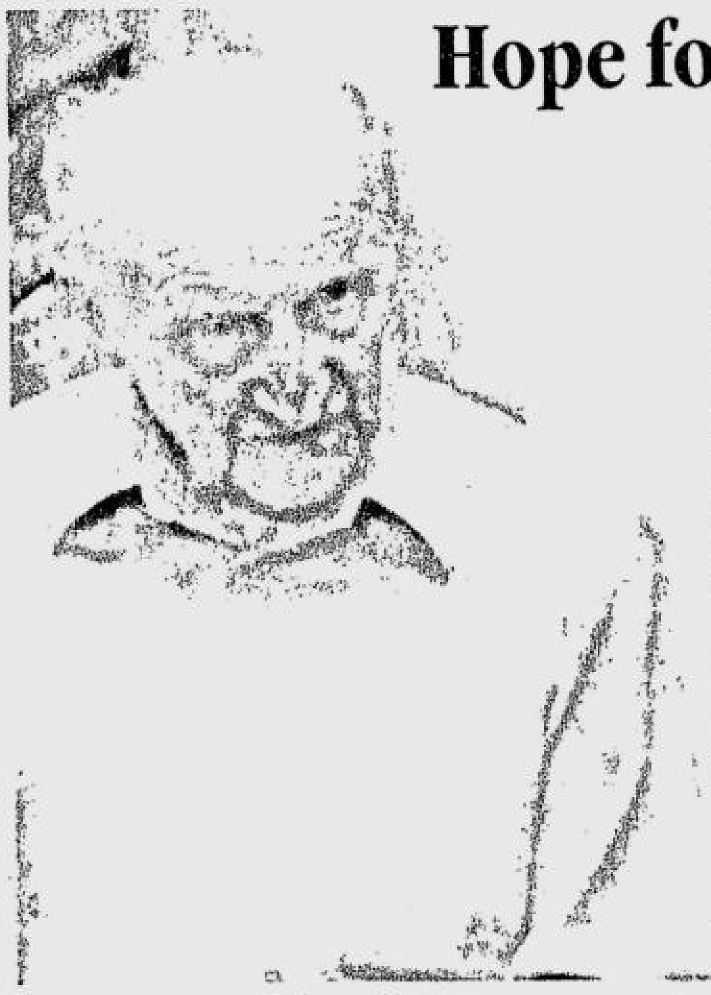
NOW it's Miriam vs the giant billboards.

Appalled by the proliferation of huge billboards on both sides of Edsa and other major thoroughfares in the metropolis, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago filed on Friday a bill that seeks to ban billboards on all national highways and roads.

In addition to being eyesores, the senator said, they pose a safety concern for motorists whose attention

NOW/ A8

Hope for RP springs eternal for ageless Jesuit



FATHER TRITZ: Still sowing hope at 90

By Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

HOPE always springs for this "man for others."

At a recent episode of the TV talk show, "Cerge for Truth," host Cerge Remonde, head of the government media, asked his guest the question on many minds today: "Is there hope for this country?"

Fr. Pierre Tritz, a Jesuit who has been called the "Mother Teresa of the Philippines," answered without hesitation: "Sure, there is hope." But he stressed: "We have to develop cooperation among the many people who can afford it, so that they can give more attention to those in our midst who are in extreme poverty."

And there are so many of them, he noted.

Tritz, who turns 90 today, founded the Educational Research and Development Association (Erda) Foundation, which thrives principally on the element of hope—*"l'espoir,"* as he terms it in his native French.

It's hope for the children of the streets, that they will one day walk out of the darkness of poverty, despair, ignorance and lack of opportunity.

In fulfilling his self-appointed mission of rescuing impoverished kids from the pit of hopelessness, the white-haired Tritz seems to have no intention of slowing down, despite a bad fall he suffered in eastern France last October while on a begging trip for Erda.

He has been preaching that the only way for the very poor to break the vicious cycle of poverty is to get the proper education and skills training.

He stresses that these are "basic human rights" and that if a child is not developed in the early years, "it will be too late."

Since 1974, Erda has supported impoverished children in public elementary schools by providing them money for expenses such as books and school materials, uniforms and transportation.

Tritz realized early on that even if public elementary education was free, many children from the poorest families still dropped out because of shame at not having these essentials.

For the past 30 years, Erda has helped some 200,000 children who might otherwise have become part of the alarming drop-out statistics. This year it's supporting 30,000 in preschool and grade school.

By the late 1980s and early 1990s, Tritz had realized that if the Philippines were to move forward industrially, it had to have a pool of trained youth.

It broke his heart to see so many able-bodied youth fall into drugs and crime because they were idle.

In 1993, he put up a sister organization, the five-year Erda Technical-Vocational High School in Pandacan, Manila.

Students from the poorest families in Metro Manila earn, free of charge, a high school diploma as well as Tesda-approved training in any of a dozen technical skills such as automotive, electrical, computer education, woodworking, baking and food processing. (This year Erda Tech began a six-month course in care-giving.)

They spend their fifth year of high school in on-the-job training in local factories and companies, which often end up hiring them because of the sound work ethic they imbibe at Erda Tech.

In the past 10 years, some 640 students have graduated from the school. Many of them now enjoy good jobs, and a few have gone on to college. Hopefully, their lives will be far better than those of their parents.

On Remonde's talk show, Erda Tech board member Fely Marzan revealed that the multinational company Angkor Anam would be sending 18 Erda Tech graduates to college.

One thing that Tritz's efforts has achieved is to somehow open the eyes of the wealthy to the plight of the poor.

For instance, every week young students from Xavier School in Greenhills visit Erda Tech to tutor the kids in math and other subjects.

Many wealthy families as well as organizations have sponsored Erda Tech students at P25,000 a year per student.

Tritz still sets off on his yearly begging trips abroad for Erda kids despite his advanced age.

HOPE/ A19

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Central and Southern Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: CHONA GALANG, PDI RESEARCH/09/19/04

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

Opposition solons nix tax amnesty

By Michael Lim Ubac

OPPOSITION senators yesterday vowed to block the passage of the proposed tax amnesty bill which seeks to raise at least P9 billion in revenues for the government but would support the indexation of the so-called sin taxes on cigarettes, beer and liquor products.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. (PDP, Laban) expressed reservations over the granting of a general tax amnesty through House Bill No. 2933 which has been endorsed for approval by fiscal managers and the House ways and means committee.

Pimentel described the tax amnesty as inconsistent with the government's campaign to go after tax evaders, delinquent taxpayers and smugglers.

He said that if the government kept on granting tax amnesties, the taxpayers might think that it was all right to default on the payment of taxes now since the government would soon declare another amnesty anyway.

Pimentel noted that the proposed tax amnesty would spare tax dodgers and the government from long and expensive court litigation.

In order for the tax amnesty to be credible and morally acceptable, Pimentel said it should not apply to notorious and habitual tax evaders, especially if they had been formally charged in court. Otherwise, he said the amnesty would send the dangerous message that it was rewarding tax evaders and making a travesty of criminal laws.

Speaking at the Kapihan sa Sulo news forum, Pimentel reiterated the stand of the opposition against new taxes except those that "are progressive or equitable in nature and will not hurt the poor."

Pimentel said the minority would support the upgrade of excise taxes on sin products by making them proportionate to the market price increases of these commodities.

"This is actually not a new tax but will only adjust the amount of taxes to ensure bigger revenue yields. As far as the opposition is concerned, more or less, we are willing to support the calibration of taxes on liquor, beer and cigarettes."

Pimentel also cited studies by the Department of Finance which showed that 72 percent of individual income taxes, particularly from the self-employed, 39 percent of corporate income taxes and 49 percent of value added tax (VAT) were not being collected.

"Additional taxes are no guarantee that the fiscal deficit may be overcome, because the government is not even able to collect existing taxes. What makes them sure now that they can collect new taxes?" he said.

He believed that if these unpaid taxes would be collected, it would cover the government's fiscal deficit amounting to about P200 billion.

In Davao City, Trade Secretary Cesar Purisima said the government was seriously considering the imposition of additional taxes on sin products.

"The Philippines has among the lowest tobacco and alcohol taxes," Purisima told reporters here on Thursday.

A recent survey said 79 percent of Filipinos were against the imposition of new taxes but Purisima said the measure would help arrest the ballooning fiscal deficit.

Purisima said they also plan to collect more taxes from telecommunication firms by converting the 10 percent VAT to a seven percent franchise tax.

At present, he said, telecom firms only remit 2.5 percent of their VAT collections to the government because of their inputs, including capital infrastructure.

"It will be good for the consumer in the end because they will pay less in terms of telecom bills," he said. *With a report from Joel B. Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Gov't workers to get Xmas bonus

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

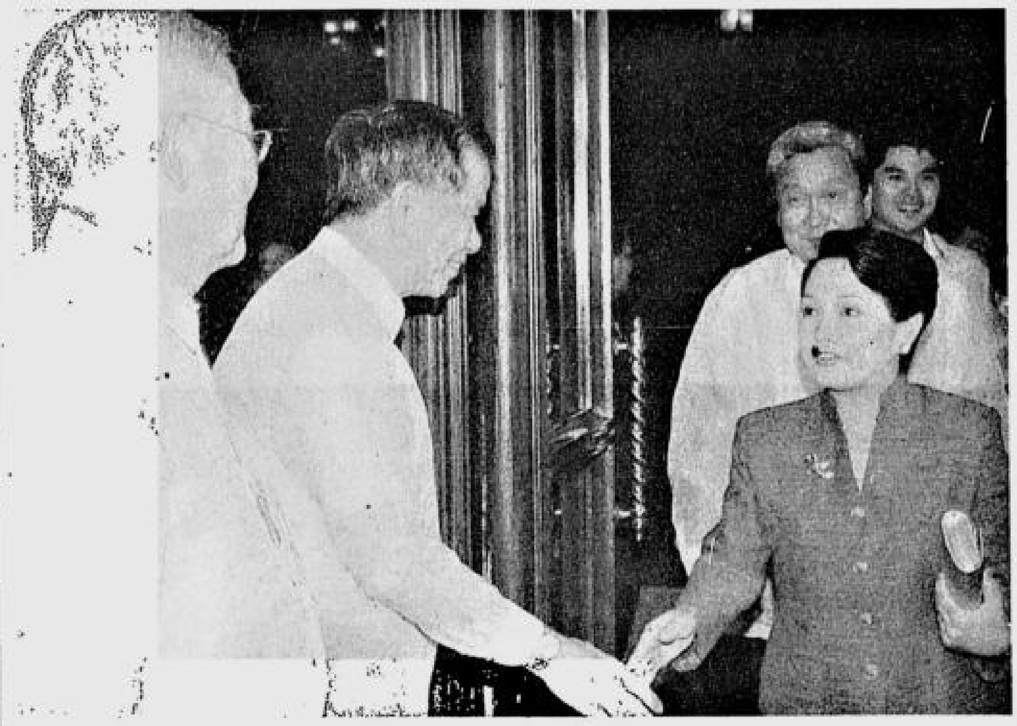
SOME 1.2 million employees of the government would get their Christmas bonuses despite the austerity and other cost-cutting measures put in place by the government, Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin assured them yesterday.

Boncodin denied that the Christmas bonuses for public servants would be a casualty of the ongoing austerity campaign being undertaken due to the government's precarious financial position.

"The truth is all employees of the national government and the corporations who can afford it can give a Christmas bonus equivalent to one month of basic pay plus a P5,000 cash gift," Boncodin said in an RMN radio interview yesterday.

Boncodin stressed that the Christmas bonus is mandated by law.

In the case of the P5,000 cash gift, Boncodin said half of it was released in May while the remaining half will be given in November.



WARM WELCOME

President Macapagal-Arroyo is welcomed by Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry Inc. chairman emeritus Lucio Tan (2nd from left) to the 50th anniversary of the organization on Friday. Looking on are, from left, FFCCCI president Robin Sy, Manila Mayor Lito Atienza and Manila Councilor Miles Roces.

PCPO MALACAÑANG

'Naughty or nice' GOCC heads to be watched

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo would be closely watching top officials of government-owned and -controlled corporations and would keep a list of those "who's naughty or nice" to determine their compliance with her directive for pay cuts and austerity measures to avert a fiscal crisis.

"This (austerity) campaign will be based on a compliance scorecard on pay cuts and austerity measures among the GOCCs. This will be a tool for deciding who among the presidential appointees would stay or leave," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said in a statement.

Bunye said some GOCC heads have started to comply and were commended by the President.

Ms Arroyo on Friday directed board members and top executives of GOCCs to cut their fat salaries and allowances as part of the government austerity program.

She warned GOCC heads they would be fired if they fail to cut their pay and implement austerity measures.

The President said that while the salaries of GOCC officials were not covered by the Salary Standardization Law and were authorized in the respective charters of these agencies, the board members and top officials were still her presidential appointees subject to her hiring or firing authority.

She said her order for the pay cut would not violate the charters of the different GOCCs.

The President said details of the pay cuts would be determined by Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin, whom she designated to take over the functions of the Presidential Committee on Effective Governance.

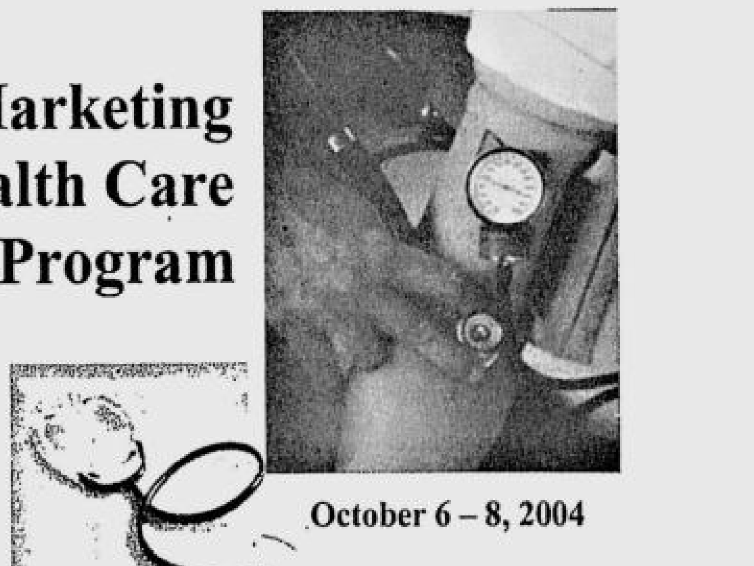
The President said Boncodin would determine the "ceiling" for the new salaries of the GOCC heads.

She has not given Boncodin any deadline.

At the Senate, Sen. Manuel B. Villar said he would file a bill that would amend the charters of the GOCCs to limit the salaries of its officials.

Villar noted that although GOCCs are exempted from the SSL, this should not be used as an excuse for the unjustifiably fat paychecks of GOCC executives.

"GOCCs have incurred financial obligations and losses that worsen the outstanding public sector debt and aggravated the country's fiscal woes, so why are their salaries soaring?" Villar asked.



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Veterans hospital to sell, lease land to pay benefits

By Alcuin Papa

RETIRED and active generals will be playing less golf on the greens of the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City.

The defense department said yesterday it intends to lease or auction off part of the hospital's property, which includes an 18-hole golf course being used by retired and active officers.

This would allow the department to pay off the P30 billion which the government owes veteran soldiers of World War II.

Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz told reporters the other day that the bulk of the 56-hectare property, or between 40 to 45 hectares, located on North Avenue would be sold or leased to tenants.

Part of the proceeds would be used to pay the benefits of veterans and their families while the rest would fund hospital operations.

Cruz said he had talked to officials of the hospital and approval for the plan was forthcoming.

He also talked to Senate defense committee chair Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, himself a retired general, who expressed his support for the plan.

Cruz revealed that part of the land was being claimed by the National Housing Authority.

He plans to draft a law which would settle these claims so they could make use of the idle property. He said he would present this to Biazon for possible filing at the Senate.

Veterans and their relatives had been complaining of delays and the non-payment of benefits and pensions.

The government had been looking to the US for funds to pay off the benefits.

Isabela turtles lay eggs, then are killed

By Norman Bordadora

FIRST, the good news: Several nesting sites of sea turtles have been re-discovered on the beaches of Isabela.

Now, the bad news: While the adult sea turtles slowly and painstakingly make their way to the beach to nest, they are butchered by the locals.

"Locals say the turtles are butchered as they go up to the beaches to nest, and that their eggs are collected. Mating turtles are captured, adult and juvenile turtles swimming at sea are hunted," said biologist Dan Torres of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources - Parks and Wildlife Bureau (DENR-PAWB).

"The hatchlings are left alone but the big and medium-sized turtles are hunted," said Louella Beltran, media officer of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

The DENR-PAWB and WWF have urged the local government in the area to declare the beaches of Dinapigue, San Mariano and Palanan as sanctuaries for the turtles.

"We are urging the local government to declare all identified nesting beaches as sanctuaries through municipal ordinances before the year ends," said Dr. Jom Acebes, WWF coordinator.

"We have a great task ahead of us and we have no time to lose if we want to protect these ecologically significant animals," Torres said.

In June and July, teams from the DENR-PAWB and the environmental group conducted a survey of the Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park and were surprised to find a significant number of hatched green turtle eggs in the beaches of Dinapigue, Palanan and San Mariano towns.

Pawikan, a turtle conservation group, initially discovered the nesting sites ten years ago.

"(After ten years), the turtles are still nesting in the area," Beltran said.

Out of the 47 areas studied mostly within the northern Sierra Madre marine park, four were confirmed nesting sites for the endangered green sea turtle (*Chelonian mydas*) and two were confirmed nesting sites for the hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*).

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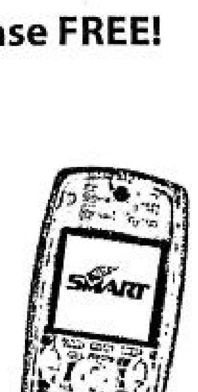

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Cebu lawyers question Aglipay term extension

By Alcuin Papa

TWO LAWYERS from Cebu City have challenged the extension of Philippine National Police Director General Edgar Aglipay's appointment, saying it was unconstitutional and could be grounds to impeach President Macapagal-Arroyo.

In a 35-page petition filed with the Court of Appeals division in Cebu City on Sept. 13, lawyers Roque Amante Jr. and Nicolas Alvarez said extending Aglipay's appointment as head of the 115,000-strong police force violated the 1987 Constitution. Sept. 13 was Aglipay's 56th birthday, the day he was supposed to retire from the service.

Amante and Alvarez claimed the President erred in extending Aglipay's term another six months because under existing laws, the President can extend the terms of the PNP chief and the Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff only in times of war or other emergencies.

"The law is very clear that there shall be no extension of service of the PNP chief after his mandatory retirement at age 56 except in times of war or other national emergency as declared by Congress. At the moment, there is no such national emergency or war being declared by Congress," the two lawyers said in their petition.

They pointed out that Section 25 of Republic Act 6975, or the Department of the Interior and Local Government Act of 1990, and Section 25 of Republic Act 8551, or the PNP Reform and Reorganization Act of 1998, prohibits the extension of the service of the PNP chief.

They said Section 5, Article XVI, of the 1987 Constitution prohibits the extension in the service of retiring military and police officials.

Citing the deliberations of the framers of the 1987 Constitution, Amante and Alvarez said then Constitutional Commission head and now Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. had agreed that the President could be impeached if he or she extended the term of an officer due for compulsory retirement. "It (extension) can be classified as culpable and, therefore, a ground for impeachment," Davide had said during the deliberations of the commission.

Davide had given the opinion after being asked his views on the possibility that a President might extend the term of an official upon reaching retirement age.

The two lawyers also asked the court to issue a temporary restraining order or a writ of preliminary injunction to disallow Aglipay from performing his duties as PNP chief and not to draw his salaries and allowances as he is deemed to be retired.

In a talk with reporters at Camp Crame the other day, Aglipay had said any criticism or move to question his extension was part of a campaign launched by drug dealers and kidnappers who want to remove him from his post.

"I am sure I have the support of the police force. So there is no one else who would do something like this except the brains behind big criminal groups," Aglipay said.

In her memorandum of Aug. 20, Ms Arroyo appointed Aglipay PNP chief replacing Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. who was appointed National Security Adviser. Later, Ms Arroyo extended Aglipay's term another six months.

Gordon to name Subic smugglers

By Michael Lim Ubac

SEN. Richard Gordon said he would name at the Senate tomorrow the "big shots" behind the smuggling of right-hand drive and second-hand vehicles at the Subic Bay Freeport.

This time, Gordon said, there would be no sacred cows.

"Mark my words. I will do everything to stop the rampant smuggling at Subic which is costing billions of pesos in foregone revenues to the national government," he said.

The former SBMA chair, who converted the former US base into a dollar-earning economic zone, admitted that he would be going against "powerful interests" in the country, including people closely associated with the First Family.

Nevertheless, Gordon said he will ask the upper chamber to authorize him to conduct a full-blown inquiry on the issue.

"This will be a real investigation, not a *moro-moro* (play). This is not just an inquiry in aid of legislation, but to recover unpaid taxes," he said.

Gordon, who is chair of the Senate committee on government corporations, can initiate an inquiry of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) because it is a government-owned and -controlled corporation.

President Macapagal-Arroyo on Friday ordered the Bureau of Internal Revenue to run after unscrupulous auctioneers who refused to pay the 10 percent value added tax on sales.

She authorized BIR Commissioner Guillermo Parayno to recover P944 million in foregone revenues from the top three car auctioneers at Subic.

Besides smuggling, the Senate inquiry will focus on the failure of the SBMA to stimulate economic activity in the freeport hub and the "unconscionable" salaries and other perks of SBMA chair Felicito Payumo.

Gordon charged that Payumo was behind the smuggling at SBMA, a claim that the latter vehemently denied.

Based on data from the Commission on Audit, Payumo was paid P2.6 million last year alone, plus a monthly per diem allowance of P60,000 and about P15,000 in miscellaneous and representation allowances per month.

Gordon noted that when he was SBMA chief, he received only about P30,000 a month.

OLD WARRIORS NEVER DIE. Three of them (from left), former Vice President Teofisto Guingona and party-list Representatives Satur Ocampo and Crispin Beltran, appeared at a forum yesterday and warned that martial law would not solve the country's economic problems. The three had fought the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

JOAN BONDOC

Martial law not the answer to RP's woes, say activists

By Fe Zamora

VICTIMS of martial law yesterday vowed they would never allow the return of authoritarian rule even if the country was in a deep financial hole.

This was the message to President Macapagal-Arroyo aired by former Vice President Teofisto Guingona and scores of civil libertarians as they prepared to mark this week the 32nd anniversary of martial law which was imposed by Ferdinand Marcos in September 1972.

A former political detainee, Guingona said solving the country's economic problems "needs comprehensive planning."

"Imposing new taxes is not the only solution," Guingona said, referring to Ms Arroyo's call for Congress to pass a package of new measures to help her cash-strapped government.

Asked if declaring martial law would make it easier for Ms Arroyo to impose unpopular tax measures and collect more revenues, Guingona said, "No."

Ms Arroyo had, in the past, rejected martial law as a solution to the welter of economic, political and security problems facing the country.

"Marcos and Macapagal-Arroyo are alike," said Fr. Joe Dizon, also a former political detainee and now chair of the militant Kairos Philippines. Dizon was alluding to how security forces under both presidents had dispersed street protests.

"But she should respect history, because if she does not, she will be ousted like Marcos," he added.

Dizon warned that the rising cost of gasoline and basic commodities would move the people to hold more protests, and this "could provide a basis for the escalation of state terrorism."

Party-list Rep. Satur Ocampo said there was no need for Ms Arroyo to assume emergency powers in order to clamp down on protests because she could always resort to "martial law instrumentalities" left behind by the Marcos regime.

Ocampo noted that Ms Arroyo had been implementing the "no permit, no rally" policy as provided for under Batas Pambansa 882, issued by Marcos in the 1970s.

In a statement, Sr. Mary John Mananzan recalled the "severe economic hardship and explosive political crisis" that beset the country in the months prior to the declaration of martial law on Sept. 21, 1972. She said the situation then was "not a far cry from the profound political, economic and, I dare say, moral crisis, we face today."

"Amid the present crisis, we would do well to remember the hard-earned lessons of that period of heroic struggle and sacrifice," Sr. Manansan said.

Marcos formally lifted martial law in 1981 and was overthrown in a popular revolt five years later.

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Ombudsman clears Yap of graft, but not Bolante

By Armand N. Nocum

THE OMBUDSMAN has dropped graft charges against Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap but kept the sword hanging over the heads of nine others, including First Gentleman Mike Arroyo's Rotary International pal and former undersecretary Jocelyn Bolante.

The charges stemmed from the alleged overprice of P432 million worth of fertilizers which the Department of Agriculture bought last year.

The Office of the Ombudsman declared as "sufficient in form and substance" the graft complaint filed against Bolante, three DA undersecretaries and five other people, and said it could now proceed with the preliminary investigation of both the criminal and administrative aspects of the case.

Sufficiency in form and substance means the complainant had raised enough valid grounds for the Ombudsman to proceed with the case.

The Ombudsman, however, cleared Yap of the charges and dropped his name from the list of respondents in the complaint filed by Marlene G. Esperat, a former employee of the DA's resident ombudsman.

Reporters obtained a copy of the Ombudsman's order dated Aug. 17 from Esperat.

"It appearing that the attached complaint-affidavit is sufficient in form and substance, the above-named respondents are hereby directed to file with this office their counter-affidavits and those of their witnesses," said the order.

The other respondents were Agriculture Undersecretaries Edmund Sana, Ibarra Poliquit and Belinda Gonzales, DA legal service head Eduardo Garcia, DA chief accountant Ophelia Agawin, Jesus Varela, Benjamin Tabios and businessman Pepito Alvarez, majority owner of Philippine Phosphate Fertilizer Corp. or Philphos.

Esperat also accused the respondents of procuring the fertilizers through negotiated contract, instead of a public bidding.

The INQUIRER tried to reach Bolante at least three times by calls or text messages to get his reaction.

Earlier, through an aide, he dismissed the charges as "definitely untrue" and said he had "no participation in the procurement."

Poliquit, who also denied the charges, told the INQUIRER that "we are putting together the documents in reply to the charges." Asked who else he was speaking for, he said Bolante and Gonzales.

"How come the principals were not charged when they were the ones who signed the transactions?" Poliquit asked.

High court to review fee hikes

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE SUPREME Court is amenable to clipping the steep increase in court docket fees due to mounting complaints from litigants and members of the legal community, Court Administrator Presbitero Velasco Jr. said Friday.

Velasco told reporters covering the high court that there was a "possibility" the tribunal would suspend or even scrap the fee hikes after it deliberates on the suggestions of various sectors on the issue.

"The Supreme Court is receptive of the views of the people," Velasco said.

He said, however, that not all of the increases would be scrapped since these were mandated by Republic Act 9927, which gives "special allowances" to members of the judiciary instead of salary increases.

The "special allowances" were to be taken from the docket fee hikes, he said.

Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. said the Supreme Court would again take up during its regular en banc session on Tuesday the various complaints and suggestions that it had received on the matter.

"The court en banc has taken cognizance of the various resolutions and we will take this up again on Tuesday. I'm sure we will resolve it one way or another," Davide said.

The high court held a special session for more than an hour on Wednesday due to mounting calls to suspend or do away with the fee hikes, which took effect last month.

Aside from litigants, the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP), the Philippine Trial Lawyers Association, former Sen. Rene Saguisag and the Movement of Attorneys for Brotherhood, Integrity and Nationalism Inc. (Mabini) have opposed the legal fee increases.

Many court docket fees have increased by as much as 4,000 percent. At the high court in Manila, the fee for a petition for review was increased from P1,020 to P3,530.

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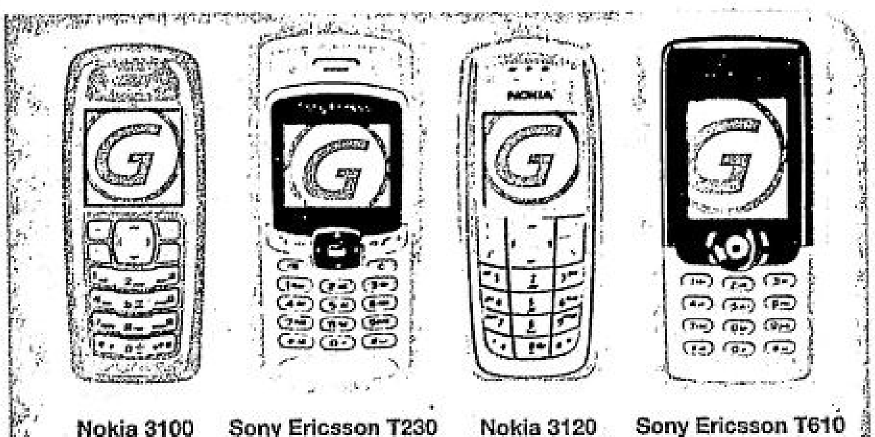

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Garment firm gave workers nausea pills to stay awake

By Martin P. Marfil

CAN'T work for lack of sleep?

A garment firm had found a way to make its employees work 21 hours straight to produce export-quality clothes by giving them pills to keep them awake.

But instead of getting overtime pay, the workers who put up with the practice learned the firm had closed shop without informing them or paying them.

About 1,000 contractual workers were thus victimized by Fashion House Garments Inc., a Korean-owned firm located at the Gold Mile Business Park in Carmona, Cavite, which manufactured Old Navy, Gap and Alison clothes for export.

According to a report received yesterday by the Kilusang Mayo Uno from the National Coalition for the Protection of Workers Rights, a church-based group that monitors trade union rights, employees who reported for work on Sept. 15 were surprised to discover the firm had closed shop.

"We did not expect it. We were working continuously the past weeks," said the report, quoting a worker named Jessica Briones.

Another worker, Ronily Alaro, said they were being paid only between P130 and P237 a day and were always being forced to work overtime by the management.

"Most of the time, they forced us to work more than 21 hours. The company nurse gave us Bonamine (anti-nausea pills) at P12 each and some candies," Alaro said in Filipino.

As an example, she cited their work day on Aug. 25 which began at 7:30 a.m. and lasted until 4:30 a.m. of Aug. 26.

Toward the end, she said, some of her co-workers were about to faint but were given the usual Bonamine and candies.

The next day, they still reported for work and labored until about 9 p.m., she said.

According to KMU's public information officer, Maureen Hermitanio, the workers were not paid their salary for the month before the firm was closed by its owner, identified as Sung Syu Kyu.

They are now camped out in front of the firm's factory waiting for developments.

Checking the Internet, the INQUIRER found that Bonamine causes drowsiness, contrary to the use for which the firm's management intended it.

Artists must have bookings

PERFORMING artists who wish to work abroad will not be auditioned and given permits unless they have bookings.

The Department of Labor and Employment made the announcement as it revealed that the job of issuing Artist Record Books or ARBs was recently transferred to the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration.

DOLE spokesperson Benedicto Bitonio Jr. said the new process would eliminate fraud as it would utilize biometrics in the new ARBs which would now be called Artist Accreditation Cards or AACs.

The new process is expected to ensure that there are jobs waiting for the artists and to reduce the long lines of performers waiting to audition.

The job of issuing ARBs formerly belonged to the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda) but complaints had cropped up regarding the process.

These included charges that the ARBs, which were supposed to cost only P300 each, were being sold for thousands of pesos without benefit of audition.

Asked if the move was meant to eliminate the alleged illegal practices at Tesda, Bitonio admitted there had been allegations but he said the new practice was designed to make the audition process more efficient.

"It's the view that POEA is more efficient in processing (auditions and issuing AACs), especially because... Tesda has no information on booking orders. The main reason is efficiency," Bitonio said.

Martin P. Marfil

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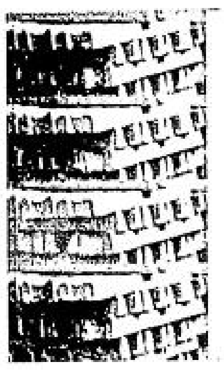

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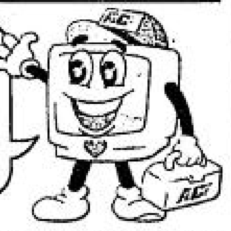

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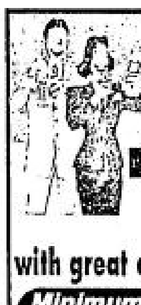

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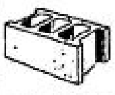

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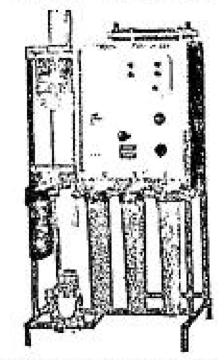

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Homecoming Idol

SMART Readies the Red Carpet for Jasmine Trias

It's always exciting to come home. For people who have lived abroad for so long, the anticipation and tension that comes with a homecoming also brings along a sense of nervousness and trepidation. Indeed, so many Filipinos have migrated to other countries and raised families there, their children have never seen the Philippines other than on television or in the movies. That is certainly the case for probably the most famous Fil-American in the world today, Jasmine Trias.

When Jasmine's parents, Rudy and Nora, took the family from Cavite and moved to Hawaii, it was in anticipation of providing a better life for the three Trias siblings. Though Jasmine was born and raised in the United States, she has always stated that "I consider myself a typical Filipina." With a love of singing like most Pinoys, Jasmine developed her own unique style, confessing that, "My musical influences are Alicia Keys, Beyonce Knowles, Whitney Houston, and Mariah Carey." The bubbly 17-year old then took the US by storm in the recent season of "American Idol", a show that searches far and wide for the next big music superstar. Now, she is getting ready to come home to the Philippines and greet the millions of Filipinos who supported her as well.

Just like Jasmine, so many Pinoys abroad would love to come home and reconnect with their family here. And everyday, SMART IDD reinforces those bonds of family and camaraderie worldwide. With phone calls at 40c a minute, SMART IDD brings them home as if they were right beside you. SMART International Text keeps you in touch with them, even if it's only through text.

In anticipation of Jasmine's big homecoming concert on October 16 at the Araneta Coliseum, SMART is rolling out the red carpet for the girl with the flower in her hair. Jasmine's "American Idol" experience has been amazing both for her and for Filipinos here and abroad. Now more than ever, people are taking notice of the inherent talent of the Pinoy thanks to people like Jasmine Trias. As SMART IDD keeps us connected to our relatives abroad, Jasmine hopes to bring a little of the Philippines back to America when she visits next month. A highly anticipated event if ever there was one.

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No escaping pain package

From page A1

"They (creditors) would demand more than the usual promises—planned spending cuts and proposed revenue streams should not only be substantial, they also need to be firm, that is, legislated and forthcoming," Salceda said.

The new tax measures are estimated to put P64 billion in the national coffers—P14 billion from the so-called "sin taxes" in 2005 and P50 billion from the two-way value-added tax and petroleum tax in 2006.

Salceda said the petroleum tax would result in higher gasoline prices and an increase in power rates would mean higher energy bills for the big users.

He said Napocor, which was recently granted a provisional rate increase of 98 centavos per kilowatt-hour, has no choice but to impose tariff adjustments of P1 per kWh in 2005, 45 centavos in 2006 and another 40 centavos in 2007.

But Salceda said the burden was well spread, with the higher income classes absorbing much of the pain as the new taxes were mostly progressive—that is, the rate increases as income grows—except for the VAT which is slightly regressive.

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PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo stresses a point in her keynote speech during Friday's 50th anniversary of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc.

RENY PAMPOLINA/PCPO MALACAÑANG PHOTO

Middle-class

In aggregate amounts, however, it will principally be borne by the broad middle class—households with annual incomes above P60,000—since in reality there are very few rich families in the Philippines.

Salceda said the negative impact on consumption would be staggered, with Napocor rate adjustments spread at P1 in year 2005, P0.45 in 2006 and P0.40 in 2007, while VAT will be increased from 10 to 12 percent in 2006 and from 12 to 14 percent in 2007.

UP Prof. Felipe Medalla, a former economic planning secretary, told Salceda that in order for the public to bear the pain of the new taxes, government officials must also do their share.

"Giving up part of your pork barrel would make the public feel that there is really some burden-sharing," Medalla said.

Salceda said the government would implement spending cuts through a two-year freeze in the Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) of local governments, estimated to yield P10 billion in 2005 and P6 billion in 2006; reductions in discretionary allocations that would save P10 billion yearly for the next three years; P5 billion to be realized from government agencies and government-owned and -controlled corporations through austerity measures, and a cut in the President's intelligence and social funds.

Credit rating

Salceda said that by initiating these painful reforms, the government hoped to secure credit-rating upgrades for the Philippines in the next 18 months, which would mean a reduction in the interest it has to pay on its debts.

Years of fiscal deficits and an increasing level of public debt have kept the country's rating strengths down.

A credit rating downgrade by international rating agencies pushes up the cost of the government's borrowings and the perceived increased risks have prevented crucial foreign direct investments from coming into the country.

The Philippines is currently rated at three notches below investment grade. The most recent downgrade translated into P19 billion in additional interest costs, Salceda said.

He said the country could aspire for a three-step upgrade which would result in an early harvest of P60 billion in interest savings on its foreign debt stock, "which could free up resources for infrastructure and for social services."

Salceda said strong fiscal fundamentals would be an added incentive for foreign investors to come in as the risk premium required for capital exposure to the Philippines would be reduced.

Downside

Administration Sen. Manuel Roxas warned, however, that the planned new taxes and a second increase in Napocor rates could take P153 billion out the pockets of consumers which could in turn pull down economic growth.

In a statement, Roxas said there was valid concern that the P153 billion to be extracted from the pockets of consumers could erode disposable incomes and significantly inhibit consumer spending and eventually harm domestic industries.

"Considering that we now have the second costliest electricity in Asia, there are concerns about how higher power rates will impact industries, including exporters that cannot take full advantage of time-in-use discounts because they operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week," he said.

The new taxes from the eight proposed tax measures would exact P83.4 billion, directly or indirectly, from consumer pockets, Roxas said.

In addition, households and industries would spend P35 billion more for their electricity bills as a result of the recent 98 centavos per kWh increase in Napocor rates, he said. A second Napocor rate increase of the same amount will draw another P35 billion from consumers, he said.

On Monday, the Senate committees on economic affairs and on trade and commerce, both chaired by Roxas, will grill economic managers on the impact of the new taxes and higher energy costs on private consumption, basic commodity prices, the competitiveness of small and medium-scale industries, and on the broader economy.

Being honest

President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday told Chinese-Filipino businessmen that she was only being "honest" when she admitted that the government was in dire financial straits.

She hoped that her candidness would inspire government officials, legislators and the public to support her tax initiatives, belt-tightening measures and power-rate restructuring, she said in a speech at the golden anniversary celebration of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry Inc.

"I am aware that there is a wall of resistance against the tax measures but beyond this wall is the country's redemption," she said, as she called on FFCCCI members to be role models in the fight against tax evasion by paying the right taxes.

Ms Arroyo urged Filipino-Chinese businessmen not to take their money abroad but invest instead in the Philippines to help improve the peso's value.

"If we are in a crisis today, it is because political sentiments have long overruled dispassionate requirements of governance. That past has caught up with us," she said. *With reports from Michael Lim Ubac and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

Gov't doesn't regret sending troops to Iraq

From page A1

this point Friday night in a speech before the Manila Overseas Press Club shortly after United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan commented on BBC that the war in Iraq was "illegal."

Annan had said that the failure to secure a second UN Security Council resolution authorizing the US-led invasion of Iraq meant that "from the UN charter point of view, it was illegal."

"No, we have no regrets because that was a political and moral position. Because we wanted to pursue the war on terror and we felt that [then Iraqi President] Saddam Hussein represented that," Romulo said in response to a question after his speech.

The Philippine government dispatched 96 peacekeepers in August last year. It pulled out the remaining 51 soldiers and policemen last July to meet the demand of Iraqi militants who had taken hostage Filipino truck driver Angelo de la Cruz and threatened to behead him.

After more than a year of almost daily fighting with local militants, and after the turnover of authority to an Iraqi provisional government last July, the US-led coalition forces have yet to find Saddam's supposed cache of weapons of mass destruction.

Peace and stability

The insurgency has meanwhile intensified, and US forces are currently pounding targets allegedly connected to extremist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. Many of the casualties are women and children, according to medical sources.

ROMULO

Romulo said that while Annan had a different opinion of the war in Iraq, he remained committed to the establishment of "peace and stability" in the war-torn state.

US President George W. Bush had disputed Annan's charge, arguing that the UN Security Council unanimously endorsed in November 2002 in Resolution 1441, which warned Saddam that he would face "serious consequences if he were still seeking weapons of mass destruction."

"Certainly, under Resolution 1546, even the United Nations is recognizing that sovereignty has passed to the people of Iraq," Romulo said.

And quoting a Chinese ambassador to the UN Security Council, he said: "Of course, we have different views on Iraq, but in the end what we have to ensure is stability and peace in Iraq.

"I think that's where we are; we move on."

Romulo also said that while the United States was "hurt" by the pullout of the Philippine contingent from Iraq, it had repeatedly assured that the two countries would remain friends and allies.

He recalled his conversation on the matter with US Secretary of State Colin Powell, who recently phoned to congratulate him on his being named foreign secretary.

"In the war against terror, we need each other, as we need all the other countries in the free world," he added.

Ban still in place

On the other hand, Romulo said he was standing pat on his earlier position to keep the ban on the deployment of Filipino workers, including truck drivers, to Iraq.

"Listen, our position today is that we have such a huge responsibility for the safety and security of our workers. Unless we can be assured a 100-percent guarantee of safety, I recommend that we don't lift [the ban]," he said.

Hundreds of workers trooped twice last week to the Department of Foreign Affairs office in Pasay City to urge Romulo to allow them to go to work in two US military camps in Iraq, which officials had declared relatively safe.

They were rebuffed.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE STOCKHOLDERS OF
PAMANTASAN NG ARAULLO (ARAULLO UNIVERSITY), INC.

Please be notified of the Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of the Pamantasan ng Araullo (Araullo University), Inc. to be held on **04 October 2004 at 3:30 p.m., at Araullo University, Cabanatuan City**, with the following Agenda:

1. Call to Order
2. Notice and Quorum
3. Ratification of Appointment of External Auditor
4. Reading and Approval of Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements for Fiscal Year 2003-2004
5. Amendments of Articles of Incorporation and By-laws
6. Increase in Authorized Capital Stock
7. Reduction in Par Value
8. Election of Directors
9. Adjournment

ATTY. TROY A. LUNA
Corporate Secretary

R233 Notice (SH Meeting)/tal230

WE APOLOGIZE

FOR SELLING COUNTERFEIT AUTOMOTIVE STEERING AND SUSPENSION SPAREPARTS BEARING THE TRADEMARK "555"

YALE MOTOR PARTS, hereby apologize to **SANKEI INDUSTRY CO. LTD., of Japan** and its exclusive distributor in the Philippines, **BSB JUNROSE AUTOPARTS CORPORATION**, for the distribution and sales of counterfeit automotive steering and suspension spare parts bearing the renowned trademark "555", which contravened the Intellectual Property Code (Republic Act No. 8293) and infringed the trademark "555", as well as the intellectual property rights of **SANKEI INDUSTRY CO. LTD., of Japan** and **BSB JUNROSE AUTOPARTS CORPORATION** to the said automotive steering and suspension spare parts.

Henceforth, we undertake to respect the intellectual property rights of **SANKEI INDUSTRY CO. LTD., of Japan** and **BSB JUNROSE AUTOPARTS CORPORATION.**

YALE MOTOR PARTS

Now, it's Miriam vs giant billboards

From page A1

could be diverted by provocative advertising.

They have also contributed to the moral decay of society because some of them feature scantily clad men and women advertising underwear, a movie or TV soap, she added.

Under Senate Bill No. 1714, also known as the Anti-Billboard Blight Act, Santiago proposed that no billboard should be located a thousand feet from any interchange, right-of-way of any underpass, overpass, bridge or tunnel, street or intersection.

"The unregulated construction, placement and display of these billboards constitute a public nuisance detrimental to the health, safety, and welfare of the residents in the area where such billboards are located," she said.

The bill designates the Department of Public Works and Highways and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority as the primary lead agencies that will regulate the construction of billboards, and conduct a thorough review and inventory of all billboards in the metropolis.

"How many more injuries and damage to property do we need before the government does something about the problem?" Santiago said, citing the recent collapse of a huge billboard in Pasig City that injured two persons and destroyed 16 houses.

Besides posing a safety hazard, billboards along roadways distract motorists and, worse, they have affected the morals of the public who view them, she said, adding: "We should put an end to the vulgar showing of human bodies on these billboards. They do not only confuse motorists, they also contribute to the moral decay of the society."

Santiago also believes the "excessive and inadequately controlled" proliferation of billboards is unsightly and defaces "the scenic beauty of the environment."

"There are more beautiful things we should look at and appreciate than these irritant commercial billboards," she said.

Watsons

YOUR PERSONAL STORE

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In 2 It
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Revlon
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25% off

L'Oreal
Ralph Lauren, Polo Fragrances
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Studio Line
30% off

Victoria's Secret
(all variants)
10% off

Max Factor
(selected items)
15% off

Colorsilk
Hair Color
~~329.75~~
263.75
20% off

Veet
Depilatories
(assorted)
10% off

Gillette
Razors
15% off

Maybelline
15% off

Caring Colours
FREE
2-Way Cake Foundation Refill with selected purchase

VOV
FREE
VOV Promo Pack with every P1,200 purchase of VOV cosmetics

anniversary sale

Sept 17 - 30

Get a chance to
win
a pair of roundtrip tickets to Los Angeles plus pocket money
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Simply Divine
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Conditioner
Protect 200 ml
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Vaseline
Shampoo
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336.75
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L'Oreal
Feria
Hair Color
~~439.00~~
219.50
50% off

Medicare Germicidal
Soap 90g
(assorted)
14.75
BUY 1 TAKE 1

Rica's
Calamansi
Soap 135g
~~37.75~~
34.00
10% off

Oral B
Advantage
~~89.75~~
76.75
15% off

Gatsby
Water Gloss
Gel 75g
~~54.75~~
42.75
20% off

Johnson & Johnson
Baby Powder
Classic Blossom
300g
~~56.75~~
51.00
10% off

Tender Care
Talc 100g
(assorted)
~~24.75~~
22.25
10% off

Ponds
Pearl Cream
4g
~~34.75~~
31.25
10% off

Jergens
Lotion
500 ml
~~141.75~~
127.50
10% off

Nivea
Deo Whitening
Stick 50ml x 2
209.75
Roll-on 50ml x 2
116.75
Buy One Get 2nd same item at 50% off

Dove
Deodorant
Solid 17g
~~58.75~~
52.75
10% off

Lactacyd
Feminine Wash
250ml
unscented
~~149.75~~
134.75
10% off

Kotex
Pantyliners
20's
~~35.75~~
32.00
10% off

Homedics
Bubble
Spa
~~2,250.00~~
1,912.50
15% off

Bath Sponge
(assorted)
49.75
BUY 1 TAKE 1

Snickers
Peanut Singles
25.50
BUY 1 TAKE 1

Cadbury
Chocolate
55g
~~34.75~~
31.25
10% off

Funky Farm
Bath & Shower
1L
~~P169.75 ea~~
149.75 ea

Watsons
Cream Handwash
500 ml w/ refill
~~P149.75~~
119.75

Watsons
Everyday Range
Shower Gel
1L
~~P129.75~~
99.75

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Gel 500 ml
~~P99.00~~
79.75

Johnson Parker
Bubble Bath
800 ml
~~P99.00~~
69.75

Nakayoshi
Bathroom Scale
~~P199.75~~
169.75

Photo Album
180 pockets
~~P199.75~~
149.75 ea

Mline Checks & Striped Boxer Shorts
~~P169.75~~
149.75 ea

Calendar
Calculator
~~P169.75~~
129.75 ea

Be Hot Ladies
Satin/ Drawstring
Shorts
~~P129.75~~
109.75

Scan radio / earphone and LED Torch
~~P79.75~~
69.75 ea

Nizoral
Cream
5g
~~P144.25~~
137.25

Stresstabs
w/ Iron
600 mg
~~P97.80 ea~~
92.90 ea

Tempra
Drops 15 ml
~~P57.75~~
52.75

Fibrosine
~~P15.00 ea~~
14.25 ea

Abs
Bitter Herbs
350 mg
~~P12.00 ea~~
11.40 ea

Imodium
2 mg
~~P11.15 ea~~
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Myra
300 E
~~P7.25 ea~~
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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1803 Series of 2004

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Iraq suicide bombing kills 17; rebs threaten to kill hostages

KIKRUK, Iraq—At least 17 people were killed in a suicide bombing on Saturday, capping a week of horrific violence in Iraq as al-Qaida-linked militants threatened to kill two American and a British hostage in 48 hours.

More than 400 Iraqis have perished in a wave of bombings and fighting since the start of the month, exacerbating fears over the security situation four months before general elections are scheduled to be held in January.

In the latest attack, a suicide bomber smashed through the security barriers outside the Iraqi national guard headquarters in Kirkuk, in what was the second major attack on the fractured northern oil city in two weeks, police said.

At least 17 people were killed and another 53 people were wounded, hospital officials said.

The vehicle passed through three barriers before it reached the outer gate of the building and exploded, sending shrapnel flying into a crowd of national guard recruits lined up outside.

Ambulances raced to the scene and police fired warning shots in the air, in scenes all too familiar in Iraq, where the health ministry reported at least 268 killed in the last week alone and another 820 wounded.

Meanwhile, loyalists of suspected al-Qaida operative Abu Musab al-Zarqawi threatened to kill two Americans and a Briton unless Iraqi women prisoners are freed within 48 hours, according to a videotape broadcast on Al-Jazeera television.

Three blindfolded men were shown sitting in front of gunmen dressed entirely in black, pointing their machine-guns at the prisoners.

Americans Jack Hensley and Eugene "Jack" Armstrong and British engineer Kenneth Bigley were abducted by gunmen from their house in Baghdad's upscale Mansour district on Thursday.

In further violence, five bodyguards for Mohammed Ahmed Zebari, a senior official at the oil ministry in Mosul, died in a hail of gun and rocket-propelled grenade fire in the northern city, said police.

In Baquba, nine people were wounded by flying shrapnel when a mortar shell struck a crowd of students and parents awaiting exam results outside a school, police and hospital sources said.

Despite the rampant unrest, which hardly sells Iraq as a tourism destination, national carrier Iraqi Airways launched its first international flight in 14 years, with a plane taking off from Amman to Baghdad—but without any passengers.

The airline had been grounded since Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait and the subsequent UN sanctions imposed on the former regime of toppled dictator Saddam Hussein. It has only one functioning plane, a Boeing 737.

British soldiers also clashed with Shiite Muslim militiamen for hours overnight in the main southern city of Basra, after confiscating a weapons cache from the local office of radical cleric Moqtada Sadr.

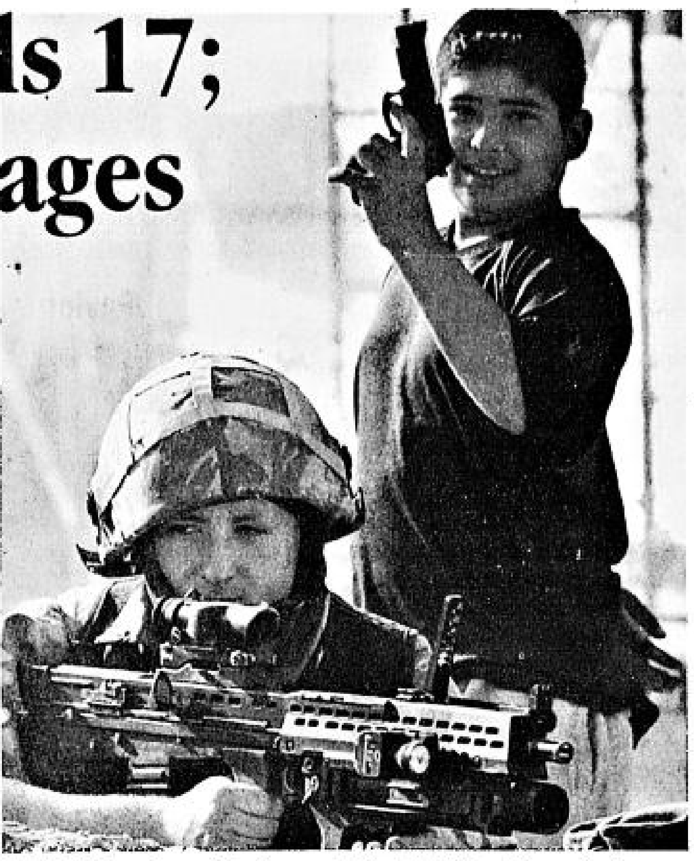
With death and destruction part of daily life in Iraq now, a London newspaper reported that British Prime Minister Tony Blair had been fully briefed on the risks of Iraq sliding into chaos if Saddam was removed from power.

"There seems to be a larger hole in this than anything," wrote Foreign Secretary Jack Straw in one of several secret documents that Blair was shown a full year before the US-led invasion he so staunchly backed.

One of the documents drawn up by British foreign policy adviser Sir David Manning after a trip to Washington in March 2002 stated: "I think there is a real risk that the administration (of US President George W. Bush) underestimates the difficulties."

"They may agree that failure isn't an option, but this does not mean they will necessarily avoid it," Manning wrote.

But three months after he was nominated as Iraq's caretaker prime minister by Washington, Iyad Allawi was looking forward to a warm welcome in the United States, where Bush said he was anxious to see him. *AFP*



AN IRAQI boy plays with a toy gun behind a British soldier as the troops clash with Shiite militia near the local office of the radical Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadrin in the southern city of Basra, Sept. 18. REUTERS

Turkey-EU ties in peril over issue of adultery

ANKARA—Bickering within Turkey's ruling party on whether adultery is a crime or not brought Ankara and the EU to the brink of crisis Friday, with Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan sharply telling the European body not to meddle in his country's domestic affairs.

Less than three weeks before the EU executive issues a make-or-break report on whether membership talks with Turkey should begin, Erdogan lashed out at criticism from Brussels over a criminal law reform package frozen in parliament because of an internecine party squabble on the legal status of adultery.

"No requests can be made concerning Turkey's internal affairs," a combative Erdogan told reporters at the headquarters here of his Justice and Development Party (AKP).

He was responding to remarks from EU Enlargement Commissioner Gunter Verheugen and his spokesman, Jean-Christophe Filori, on a sudden AKP move Thursday night that left the penal code reform package in limbo.

"It's a very... worrying development that we see in Turkey," Verheugen told reporters in Leeuven, Belgium. "That might mean that there will be no adoption before October 6," when the EU Commission report on Turkey is due, of the penal code reform.

Filori said criminalizing adultery would "certainly cast doubt on the direction of Turkey's reform efforts and would complicate Turkey's European prospects."

"This would send the wrong signal ahead of the report," he warned. "The outcome of this will be fully reflected in the report."

The AKP, which describes itself as simply "conservative" despite its roots in radical Islamist politics, put EU membership at the top of its agenda when it barrelled to power in Turkey two years ago under Erdogan's leadership. *AFP*

Kerry launches frontal assault on Cheney/Halliburton

WASHINGTON—US Democrats opened a new front in their battle for the White House on Friday, attacking Vice President Dick Cheney and his old company Halliburton for alleged "cronyism" that reaped billions of dollars of business in Iraq.

The offensive came with polls split on the direction of the race. Two surveys published Thursday showed Democrat John Kerry pulling even with President George W. Bush while a third gave the Republican a healthy 13-point margin.

A statement by Kerry and a new television spot sought to make Halliburton a fresh test of Bush's credibility, management and what the Democrats call his coddling of the rich 46 days before the November 2 vote.

Kerry said Cheney, who was chief executive officer of Halliburton from 1995 to 2000, received nearly two million dollars from the company since becoming vice president despite his contention he severed all financial ties.

Halliburton, an oil services firm, has won billions of dollars in contracts to feed, house and take care of troops in Iraq, but has been accused of accounting problems and overcharging.

"It is clear: George W. Bush and Dick Cheney have mismanaged every aspect of the war in Iraq," Kerry said, accusing the two men of turning a blind eye to price gouging in Iraq by "their big money friends."

"We need a president and a vice president who won't sacrifice the taxpayers' money on the altar of no-bid cronyism while our fighting men and women go without the armor and equipment they need," said the Massachusetts senator.

Kerry said that as president he would reform the contracting process, reversing the trend toward no-bid deals and ensuring fair competition. He would also overhaul the accounting process to crack down on profiteers.

The new television ad shows Cheney saying "I have no financial interest in Halliburton of any kind and haven't had now for over three years," and alleges he has since received two million dollars from the company.

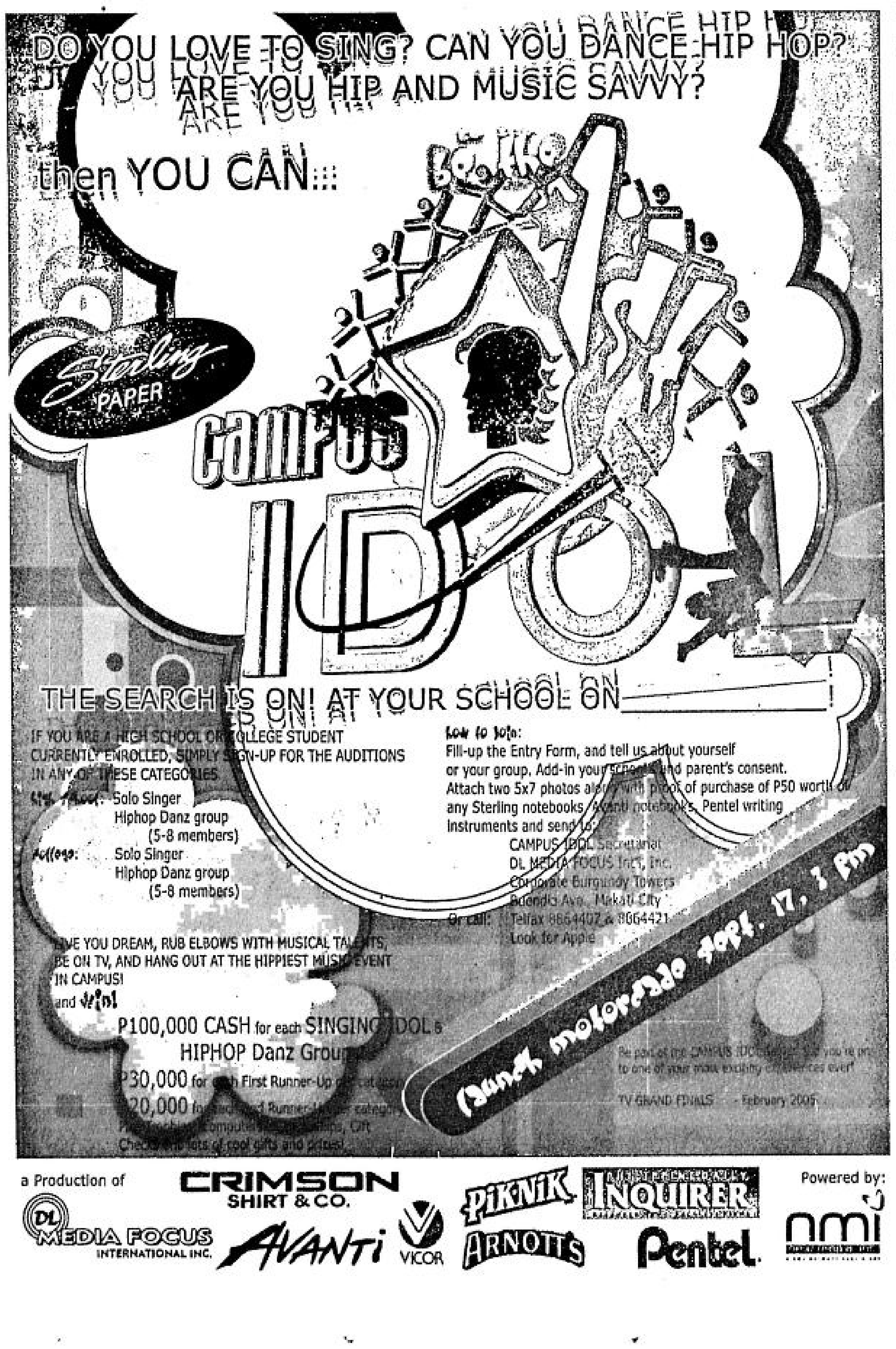
Bush campaign officials acknowledged Cheney established a package of deferred compensation from Halliburton in 1998 but disputed the two million dollar figure. They also said he took steps to divorce it from whether the firm made money.

Spokesman Reed Dickens called the Democratic allegations "a tired, old, recycled attack.

"The bottom line is that the vice president has no financial stake in Halliburton so the context of their ad is completely false and hypocritical."

After revamping his staff to inject more energy and focus into his campaign, Kerry has tried to sharpen his attacks on the Republican incumbents.

And the Kerry camp pledged Friday to hammer away on Iraq after earlier vowing to keep the focus on the economy. *AFP*



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An alien in the morning, a US citizen 3 hours later

By Giles Hewitt

NEW YORK—Bosnian Ismeta Krcic, who fled the siege of Sarajevo in 1992, left downtown New York on an early morning ferry Friday and returned three hours later as a full-fledged American citizen.

In between, she sat patiently in a large hall, twirled a plastic American flag when prompted, watched a video message from President George W. Bush and finally, like millions before her, swore an oath of allegiance and accepted a new nationality.

Of the 20,000 people nationwide who became America's newest citizens on what is officially Citizenship Day, Krcic was among 100 selected to be sworn in at a special ceremony on Ellis Island in New York harbor.

Now a museum, Ellis Island was the first US federal immigration way station, processing more than 12 million new arrivals to the country from 1892 until its closure in 1954.

The hopes for a better life and a new beginning that drove those earlier immigrants remain a potent motivation for Krcic and many of the 450,000 alien residents who are granted US citizenship every year.

"It means an enormous amount to me," said Krcic, 43, who arrived in the United States, via Kosovo and Turkey, with her infant son in 1995. Her husband was killed in the fighting in Bosnia.

"We survived genocide. Here, now, we have some peace of mind," she said. "I was proud to be Bosnian, but after what was done to us ...."

With origins as varied as their English-speaking skills, Krcic and her new fellow Americans presented a potpourri of race, culture and religion, from Bangladesh in the developing world to Britain in the developed, from Muslim Iran to Catholic Ireland.

Essentially a PR exercise by the US Citizenship and Immigration Services, the Ellis Island ceremony—held in the old facility's imposing Great Hall with two giant national flags hanging from the ceiling—was heavy on patriotic symbolism and speeches about freedom and opportunity.

"Today your dreams turn into reality," USCIS Director Eduardo Aguirre said. "From today on, you will be able to fully pursue your version of the American Dream."

Such rhetorical flourishes, together with an anthem-like music video about the joys of being an American, were lost on some who, while new citizens, were hardly newcomers to the States, having lived here for decades.

"A bit pompous wasn't it," said Paula Lewis, who was seven when she came to America from Britain 30 years ago.

If Krcic's journey to citizenship was the classic immigrant tale of courage and determination, Lewis's was a more banal, if more common story.

"Everyone in my family went through with citizenship, so I just felt it was my turn," said Lewis, while adding that she was looking forward to voting for the first time.

"I've been living here long enough and paying taxes. It's time I had a say," she said.

Being able to cast a ballot in November's presidential election was a bonus also cited by Anderson Nesbitt, 40, who came to the United States from the tiny Caribbean nation of Antigua and Barbuda in 1990, looking to "make a better life" for his wife and children.

"As a citizen, I feel I can truly open my mouth and speak my mind," said Nesbitt—no fan of Bush or the war in Iraq.

"There's too many young people been dying. I know where my vote's going," he said.

The ongoing war on terror lent an extra significance to the section of the oath of allegiance which includes the pledge to bear arms on behalf of the United States when required by law.

For Marcus Forvil, who fled unrest in his native Haiti in 1995, it was a pledge already fulfilled through active duty in Iraq this year as a member of the Army National Guard.

"I always wanted to be part of the greatest army in the world," Forvil said of his decision to join up in 1999.

Some 8,000 members of the armed services became naturalised citizens in 2003 through an expedited process stemming from their involvement in the war on terror.

If the stirring speech-making and flag-waving attending the Ellis Island event smacked of overkill at times, the simplicity of the brief oath-taking ceremony carried genuine symbolic resonance.

One hundred people, raising their right hands as citizens of 44 countries, and then lowering them as nationals of one. *AFP*

PROBE BREAKTHROUGH

Jakarta arrests 4 over embassy bombing

JAKARTA, Indonesia—Police announced the arrests Saturday of four suspects in the suicide bombing at the Australian Embassy—the first major breakthrough in an investigation into the deadly attack.

The four men were being held under antiterrorist laws, but have not been charged in the attack that killed nine people and wounded nearly 180, police chief Gen. Dai Bachtiar told reporters.

"The more arrests we make, the more information we get," Bachtiar said, adding that he was "convinced" police would capture the alleged masterminds of the attack, Malaysian militants Azahari bin Husin and Noordin Mohamed Top.

Since the Sept. 9 blast, police have questioned scores of people, but most have been released. The arrests Saturday were the first made in connection with the attack.

The bombing has been blamed on Jemaah Islamiyah, a militant network affiliated with al-Qaida that was also implicated in the 2002 Bali bombings and an attack last year on the J.W. Marriott Hotel in Jakarta.

One of the four suspects, identified by his initials A.A.H., has confessed to transporting explosives used in the embassy blast to Jakarta from a safe house in western Java, Bachtiar said.

He was picked up after the bombing, Bachtiar said.

The other three were detained before the attack happened, but police have since determined that they were linked to it, he said.

Bachtiar gave no further details, saying that to do so could jeopardize the ongoing investigation.

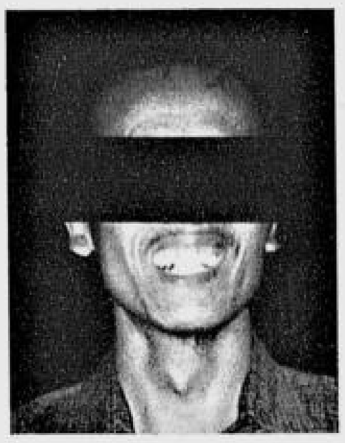
In a related development on Saturday, the jailed cleric accused of heading Jemaah Islamiyah condemned the embassy attack, and reiterated that he had nothing to do with it.

"I personally condemn the bombing (and) I am deeply sorry and express my condolences to the victims," Abu Bakar Bashir said, according to his lawyer Wirawan Adnan who visited the cleric in his cell in Cipinang Prison.

Abu Bakar Bashir has been in jail since 2002, when he was convicted for minor immigration infractions. Prosecutors say they now plan to charge him with heading Jemaah Islamiyah, and for the Marriott bombing last year that killed 12.

Bashir has repeatedly denied any involvement in terrorism and claims that Jakarta buckled under pressure from Washington to arrest him as part of a crackdown on Islamic activists in the world's most populous Muslim nation.

"I deny all accusations that connect the bombing with me," Bashir said. "Terrorists must be punished and eliminated for good." *AP*



ONE OF the suspects of the bombing at the Australian Embassy identified by his initials A.A.H. REUTERS

Powell tells UN chief war in Iraq 'was necessary'

UNITED NATIONS—Secretary-General Kofi Annan and US Secretary of State Colin Powell discussed their disagreement over the legality of the war in Iraq, and Powell said he didn't think the UN chief was trying to get involved in US politics or make news.

Annan's claim that the war in Iraq was illegal drew strong protests from the United States and its allies.

Powell said in an interview Friday night with Sean Hannity on Fox News Channel that he spoke to Annan on Friday morning and insisted that "the war was necessary and it had rested on sound principles of international law."

"We know we have different views on this," he added. "My reaction is that the secretary-general was incorrect."

UN spokesman Fred Eckhard has played down the strong reaction to Annan's remarks, saying the secretary-general had been making essentially the same statement for more than a year—even though he didn't use the word "illegal."

The UN chief told British Broadcasting Corp. radio on Wednesday that the US-led invasion did not conform to the United Nations Charter, a statement he has made several times since March 10, 2003, most recently on March 8, 2004.

But after being pressed three times on whether the war was legal or illegal, Annan replied: "From our point of view and from the Charter point of view, it was illegal."

Powell said he didn't agree with US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld who said Annan's comment coming so close to the November presidential election, "reeks of political interference."

Powell told Fox News he read the transcript "very, very carefully and the secretary-general was in an interview situation and he was not trying to get into our politics or, frankly, to make news."

But Powell strongly disagreed with Annan, and with French President Jacques Chirac's spokesman who also characterized the war as "illegitimate." The French, who led the opposition to the war, "are wrong, too," he said.

Powell said he and Annan speak four or five times a week and he wanted to make sure that when President George W. Bush makes an important speech at Tuesday's opening session of the General Assembly's annual ministerial debate that there wouldn't be "any distractions." *AP*

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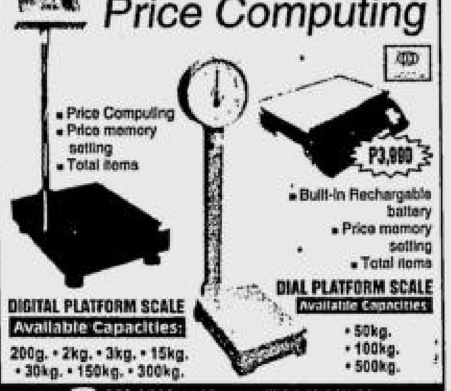

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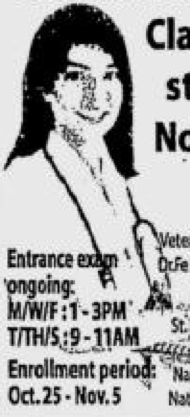

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Florida, Alabama clean up after battering from 'Ivan'

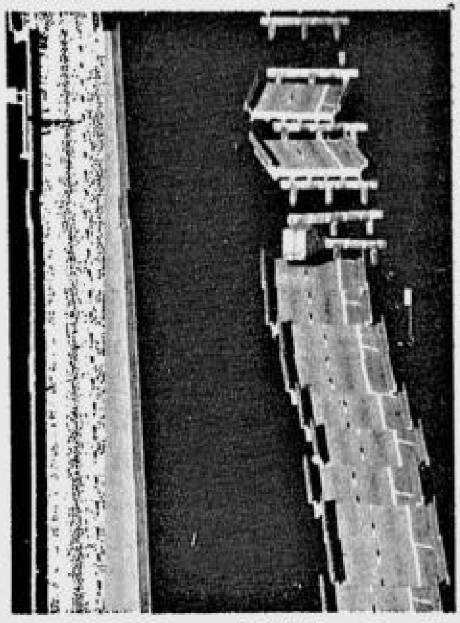
PENSACOLA, Florida—Shell-shocked Floridians began to clean up after their third hurricane pummeling in five weeks, while Alabamans looked at the crumbled condos and shattered beach homes along their coast and wondered how many months it would take for life to get back to normal.

The hurricanes have left virtually all of Florida a disaster area, and the recovery from Ivan has been complicated by widespread power outages, washed-out roads and bridges, and ongoing gas shortages. In some areas, emergency workers had to be flown in by helicopters, and authorities said it could take weeks to restore water, power and sewer services in parts of the hard-hit Panhandle.

"You've got to take the bad with the good," said 42-year-old Tracie Stitt, who stood in a pile of cinderblock and tile that once was the home she and her husband shared with her in-laws near Perdido Bay.

"If you live in California it'd be earthquakes, if you live in Kansas it'd be tornadoes, up north it's snowstorms,". she said Friday. "There's not a perfect place on earth. You've just got to take your losses and pray and go on."

Ivan was the deadliest hurricane to hit the United States since Floyd in 1999. In all, Ivan was blamed for 70 deaths in the Caribbean and at least 40 in the United States, 16 of them in Florida.


A VIEW of the Interstate 10 bridges Sept. 17 leading into Pensacola, Florida, which were broken to pieces by Hurricane Ivan. AFP

Near Pensacola on Friday, divers recovered the body of a truck driver who died when the cab of his tractor-trailer fell off an Interstate 10 bridge that had been broken apart by the hurricane. The trailer was perched precariously on the bridge, its front portion apparently torn off by Ivan's winds.

The bridge closing over Escambia Bay diverted local traffic to US 90, which was backed up for more than 16 km.

On the Alabama coast, the floodwaters of Ivan that turned beach playgrounds into huge lakes began to recede, revealing widespread wreckage. At Gulf Shores, some homes were swept over a beach road littered with thousands of air conditioning units, boards and roofing shingles.

"For a lot of people it will be a real struggle to be ready before Memorial Day," Mayor David Bodenhamer said, referring to the US holiday in late May.

Gov. Bob Riley, who toured the area Friday, said he was "absolutely shocked at the devastation" but promised a swift, full cleanup and recovery.

More than 750,000 Alabama homes and businesses remained without power Friday afternoon, down from the state record 1.1 million power outages reported after Ivan roared through the state Thursday.

In Florida, Ivan struck at a time when the state was still reeling from Hurricanes Charley and Frances. Charley ravaged the state's west coast five weeks ago, while Frances pounded the east over Labor Day weekend.

Insurance experts put Ivan's damage at anywhere from $3 billion to $10 billion. *AP*

Singapore hit by disease more deadly than SARS

SINGAPORE—Singapore health authorities have expressed concern over the tropical disease melioidosis following the deaths of 23 people out of 57 cases from January to July.

The deaths indicated a mortality rate of 47 percent which was far higher than that of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). which infected some 8,000 people worldwide last year, killing nearly 800, including 33 in Singapore.

The health ministry's director of medical services K. Satkunanantham revealed in a speech at a conference on melioidosis here Thursday that the high incidence of the illness prompted an investigation earlier this year.

Authorities feared at that time the soil-borne bacteria that causes melioidosis had been turned into a biological weapon, but the investigation proved otherwise, he said in his speech posted on the health ministry's website.

Burkholderia pseudomallei, a soil-borne bacteria that causes melioidosis, has been classified by many countries, including the United States, Britain and Australia, as a potential biological warfare agent.

An average 67 melioidosis cases and 12 deaths—or a mortality rate of 18 percent—are reported annually in Singapore over the past 10 years.

But alarm bells were raised when 11 cases were reported in the space of just one week in March following a heavy rainfall.

From January to July this year, 57 cases were reported and 23 died, Satkunanantham said.

"Aside from looking at the possible places where infection could have been acquired, we also considered the possibility, although remote, that the cluster of cases had been intentionally caused," he said.

Isolates taken from the patients were sent to the Defence Medical and Environmental Research Institute for genetic finger printing.

Results showed the DNA of the bacteria cells were "genetically disparate," which meant they could not have been prepared in a laboratory, he said.

Melioidosis is mainly found in Southeast Asia and northern Australia and is caused by the soil bacteria rising to the surface during heavy rainfall and mixing with water.

It can cause fever, pneumonia, anorexia, chest pains and muscle soreness. *AFP*

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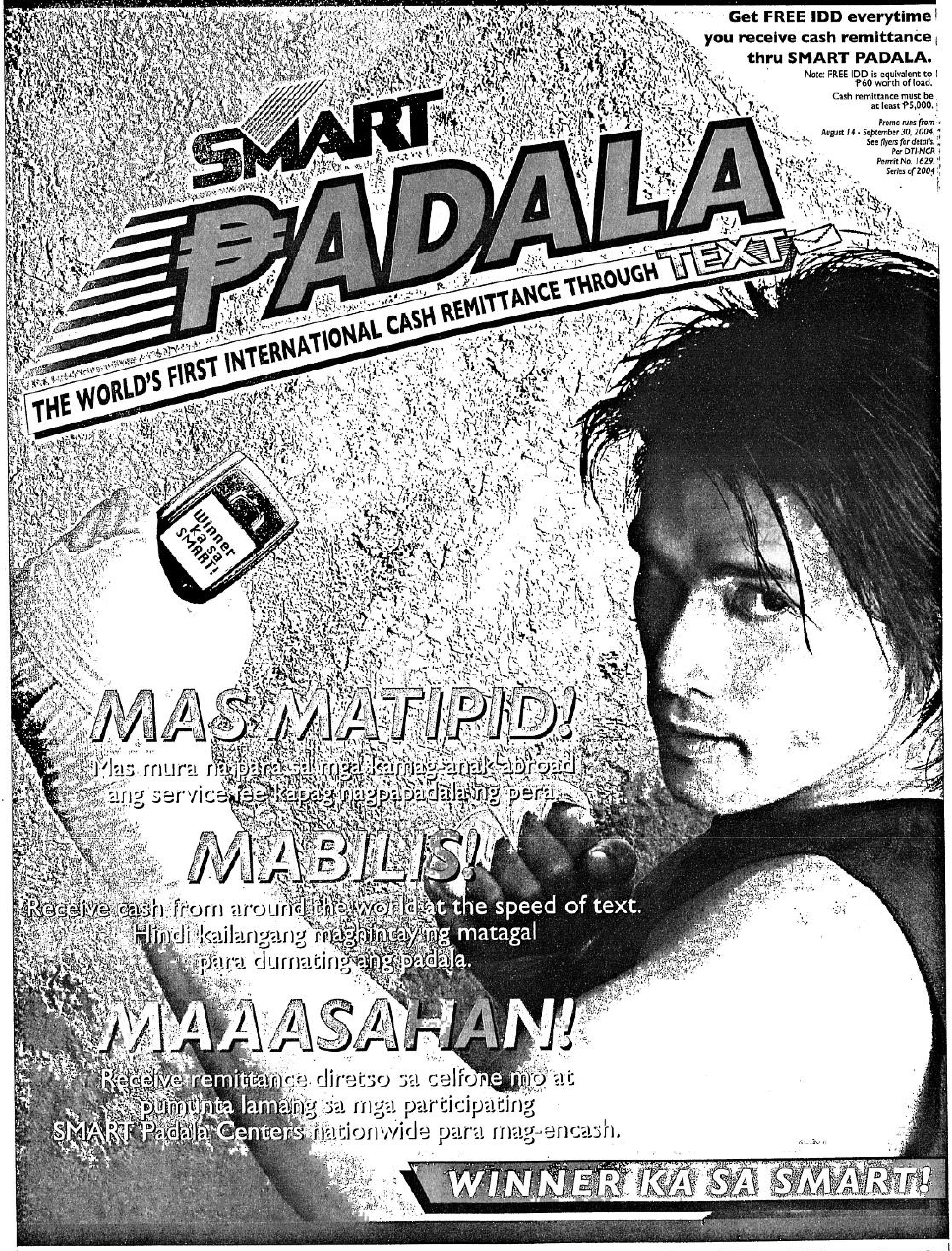

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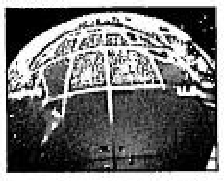

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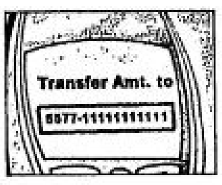

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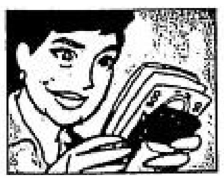

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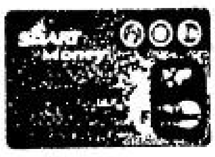

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Fat

EDITORIAL

THERE is a new front in the budget wars; the new enemy, after pork, is fat. The Senate launched the new offensive last week, attacking the lavishly compensated executives who run the country's government-owned or -controlled corporations. The senators chose their objective well; GOCC officials are a rich and easy target.

But the senators, each with P200 million in pork barrel funds, also had to choose their objective quickly; the new campaign is essentially a feint, a maneuver to move the action to a more hospitable terrain. Their battle cry is simple and blood-curdling: "Don't blame us, blame them."

To which the only appropriate answer is Shakespearean: A pox on both your houses! We believe it is not only possible to trim the fat in the public corporations while at the same time eliminating the pork in Congress; it is necessary.

In fact, the two practices share a common, dangerous assumption: the sinecures in government companies and the legislators' pork barrel are based on a notion of entitlement. Those in power think they are entitled to the cushy government job or the padded government fund because they have paid their dues: they supported the right candidate, or they ran for election themselves.

We have already called for a reduction in or the outright abolition of the pork barrel, and we will continue to do so. Contrary to what defensive senators and restive congressmen think, and despite all the headlines about the extravagant pay that GOCC executives have given themselves, the public outcry against pork continues.

But we also agree that the fat must be trimmed.

Nothing illustrates the dangerous sense of entitlement better than the maneuvering at the Development Bank of the Philippines. The Commission on Audit had earlier disapproved a new budget item: a P75,000 "office and staff allowance" for every member of the board of directors. Despite the disapproval, the board went ahead and created two confidential positions for every director, the salaries to be sourced from the same "office and staff allowance" already disapproved.

Last Sept. 6, an official in the bank's Office of the Legal Counsel, Emma Urieta, wrote COA Chair Guillermo Carague a letter of complaint. "Before the start of the last election ban, the DBP board of directors approved the creation of confidential and co-terminus positions for the office of the board. Each director is entitled to two positions which are given to close relatives (wives, children, cousins, etc.)."

(How considerate of the DBP board, to spare the nation from the back-breaking work of development finance by keeping it all within the family.)

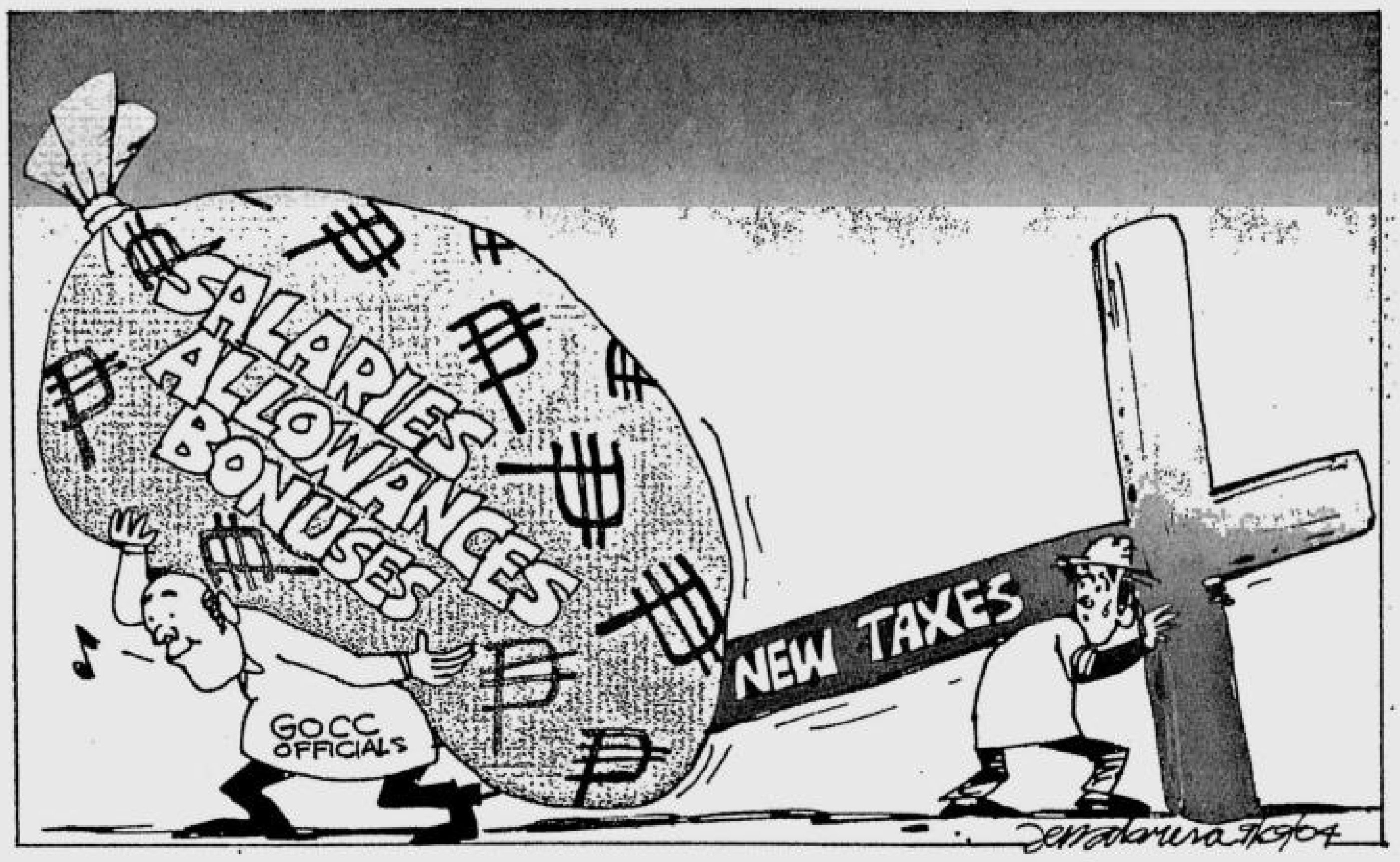
We are certain, of course, that the board can issue an explanation rationalizing the new positions, but what these new jobs essentially amount to cannot be justified. They are government-funded favors, granted to the powerful and influential who feel entitled to them, as a matter of course.

A seat on the DBP board is part of the spoils of politics; Malacañang's appointments reflect the political transactions it has made or wants to make. What the new confidential posts mean is that the spoils have given birth to more spoils.

In her letter, Urieta decried then DBP president Simon Paterno's decision to consider the confidential employees as privately employed by the directors concerned, and thus "not required to report to the bank." These directors' relatives, she said, enjoy a health care plan and a monthly rice subsidy, courtesy of the bank they do not report to.

Granted, the P75,000-a-month allowances seem small compared to the P9.2 million Sergio Apostol received the other year for warming the chairman's seat of the Philippine National Oil Company. But they add up.

In fact, it all adds up. GOCCs account for the bulk of the consolidated public sector deficit; regardless of their performance, however, their executives continue to enjoy industry-competitive packages. This disconnect between pay and performance cannot but be unhealthy for public service. Just look at the DBP directors, who regard public service as a source of jobs for their relatives. It really doesn't matter to them that the additional expenses will impact on the bank's bottom line. Because regardless of how the bank performs, they get paid anyway.



An acting regular appointment

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

WITHOUT presuming to know better than the Supreme Court, I venture the opinion that the current petition of the opposition members to nullify the acting appointments of President Macapagal-Arroyo to the Cabinet and other high positions, effective immediately, does not have a sporting chance. It is, as we lawyers say, doomed *ab initio*.

It is true that during the congressional session, the President may only nominate instead of immediately appointing officers subject to confirmation by the Commission on Appointments. Thus, the Constitution says in Art. VII, Sec. 16, that the President "shall nominate and, with the consent of the Commission on Appointments, appoint" such officials. The effect is that such officials can assume their positions only after their formal appointment following the confirmation of their nominations. This kind of appointment is called the regular appointment, which can be made only while Congress is in session.

It is different from the other kind of appointment the President is authorized to make, and that is the ad interim appointment. This is made during the congressional recess, when the Commission on Appointments is also in recess and so cannot check beforehand the appointments of the President. Such appointments are effective immediately, but they may be approved or rejected by the Commission on Appointments when it assumes its sessions with the end of the congressional recess.

The process, in other words, is reversed. The regular appointment cannot be made without the previous approval by the Commission on Appointments of the corresponding nomination, but the ad interim appointment can be made immediately, without need of a prior nomination. It is still subject to the action of the Commission on Appointments, but this must come later, not before such appointment.

The reason for the ad interim appointment is the rule prohibiting the Commission on Appointments from meeting while Congress is not in session. The appointments body must also be in recess. During the interim, some offices have to be filled to prevent disruption of urgent services, as in vacancies in the Cabinet or the judiciary. Inaction on these positions will prejudice the public interest for lack of the proper officials to perform their functions. So, while the regular appointment cannot be made, the ad interim appointment must be employed in the meantime.

But what about the regular appointee, who cannot assume his duties as long as his nomination has not yet been confirmed by the Commission on Appointments? Will not the public interest also suffer as a result?

Not necessarily, because the nominee, while waiting for his regular appointment pending his confirmation by the Commission on Appointments, can be extended an acting appointment to the same office. As an acting appointee, he does not need prior approval by the Commission on Appointments and so can assume office and discharge its functions immediately.

An acting appointment is temporary in nature and is supposed to be made while the appointing authority is looking around for a suitable person to fill the office as a regular appointee with the required qualifications. The regular appointee cannot be separated from his office except for cause unlike the acting appointee whose services can be terminated at any time with or without cause as an implied condition of his appointment. In theory, the acting appointee is chosen to fill in the gap, so to speak, a sort of temporary substitute for lack of a better qualified person who can be trusted to perform the duties of the office he can occupy competently and permanently.

That is the theory, but the practice is different. The acting appointment is given to the very person nominated for regular appointment; so, he is not a space-filler but the person intended to occupy the office permanently. While his nomination is still under study by the Commission on Appointments, he discharges to the full all the powers and enjoys completely all its perquisites and privileges. Worse, if he is denied confirmation or is by-passed, which used to be a charitable way of rejecting the nominee, he is extended a new acting appointment, and another, and still another, ad nauseam, until his nomination is finally confirmed after much arm-twisting from the President. That is how the purposes of the Constitution are mocked and violated.

President Ramos appointed Frank Drilon acting secretary of justice every time his nomination for the same position was by-passed by the Commission on Appointments, at least seven times, if I remember right. His nomination was finally confirmed, and it was then that he was extended a regular appointment to the office he had been discharging in an acting capacity. Nobody questioned his status then, but the opposition is now raising the constitutionality of the practice before the Supreme Court, and I think correctly.

Hoping I will not be punished for contempt for pre-empting the decision of the Supreme Court, I make the fearful forecast that the petition will be dismissed, and I think incorrectly.

Saved, not enslaved

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

SOMEONE once made the following definitions: a neurotic is one who builds castles in the air; a psychotic is one who lives in them; and a psychotherapist is the one who collects the rent from both.

* * *

In today's Gospel (Lk. 16, 1-13), Jesus commends the unjust steward who, like the psychotherapist we mentioned above, is wise in money matters. Yes, some people are good and diligent in making money. We have to give it to them. But, while Jesus commends their astuteness, Jesus questions their honesty. For those reading this article—those who have made much money—congratulations! But, is your money good money or filthy money, i.e., money raked in through fraud and deceit? Did you sacrifice your principles, values and even family and friendship in making that money? Did you leave out your God in the process?

* * *

Deeper than the "fiscal crisis" we are facing is the moral crisis that pervades our society today. Values such as honesty, integrity and diligence are now seen as old fashioned and things of the past. Everybody, as in everybody, is out to make money, whatever money, whoever's money, and the end result is that the rich and powerful become richer, and the poor become poorer. The lure of fast, easy money has led so many astray. Our leaders, who talk nationalistic and our leaders who talk holy and altruistic, do just that—talk, while they continue to rake in the poor people's hard earned money. Never have so few have it so good, while so many have it so difficult, as in our present day and time.

* * *

Remember the story of the Greek philosopher Diogenes who went around with a lamp in the broad daylight looking for a good man in Greece? According to rumors, he has been recently seen again going to different countries looking for good men. He was recently seen, according to reports, sitting down in a street corner somewhere in Manila, feeling so dejected. When asked why, he was reported to have said: "I not only had a hard time looking for good men. I even lost my lamp!" Where, oh where, are the good men and women? Where, oh where, are the lamps, the "salt of the earth," the "light of the world" in our land?

* * *

"When in doubt, tell the truth." This is a very good rule that leads to peace. Lying leads to agony in the long run. In the "short run," it may lead to glory but, as you and I know, glory is not forever. People who cover lies will have to cover, and will have to continue to cover many, many more lies. He who tells a lie will have to try to remember all the time what he told.

* * *

Deal with "truth decay" as you would with tooth decay. If your tooth is aching, you don't deny it, you don't sanitize it, you don't rationalize it, you don't postpone it. No, you deal with it, and you deal with it fast and radically. As with tooth decay, the only way you deal with truth decay is to open up.

* * *

For those who are always looking for money, please don't forget God gave you the eyes in the first place. For those who think they are (and in fact are) wise in money matters, please be so wise so as to see that money is not all that matters. And please don't forget that God is bigger than money, and that money is not the be-all and end-all in this life. You wouldn't like to be branded at the end of your life as one who spent a whole lifetime looking for money and all things that money can buy, would you?

* * *

Jose "JY" Campos, the patriarch of United Laboratories, is one guy I know who literally found and put God in the marketplace. People in the business and corporate world and those in government would do well to learn from this man who worked hard to earn good money, and who shared the profits of his company with his people. It is possible to find God and to put God in our search for money if we seek first the Kingdom of God. Yes, let us use money for our salvation, not condemnation. Let us be saved, not enslaved by money.

* * *

Let us not belittle the providence of God. Our God is a God of surprises. One time at the mall, I walked away from a store embarrassed because after I asked the saleslady to wrap a polo shirt I really liked, I found out that I did not have enough money to buy it. Guess what happened next? I met this young couple, and after some pleasantries, the husband just thrust a P1,000-bill in my hand and said "Father Jerry please buy anything you might need or want." Just like that. I suddenly felt the warm embrace of God, and I started to cry deep inside. Yes, God is a God who knows our needs, a God who literally provides; and I was reminded of this in a marketplace where, usually, God is put aside.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, help me to use money for my salvation, not for my condemnation. Amen.

My favorite fat cat in government

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

EVEN with the pollution, the traffic madness, the gloomy weather and the dreary headlines screaming about pork and fat cats in government, there's really no place like home. We just have to keep telling ourselves that we can do better.

* * *

For those not too familiar with the alphabet soup of the bureaucracy, the acronym, GOCC stands for government-owned and -controlled corporations. These are institutions operating under specific charters allowing them much autonomy; unlike the standard government offices which are controlled by the department heads.

In the past, there was little interest in closely scrutinizing the operations of these GOCCs but today with the fiscal deficit looming just ahead, there is a scramble to see where cost cutting measures can be undertaken. From the latest reports, it appears that with no one looking over their shoulders, GOCC executives, through their board of trustees, have been granting themselves excessive compensation packages which the President herself has characterized as legal but immoral.

* * *

My favorite fat cat in government is none other than GSIS president and general manager Winston Garcia. He is No. 8 in the list of fat cats in government, having received P5.6 million in pay and allowances for year 2002. I wonder how much he made in 2003. Anyway, on my desk is a note from a surviving pensioner decrying the actions of the GSIS in terminating the grant of Christmas Cash Gifts and yearly pension increases for the survivors (these are widows and widowers of deceased government pensioners). This is probably a group which can least afford such reductions in their income. Our readers should take note that this cut was made even as the GSIS was trumpeting in full-page advertisements that "per the financial statements audited by the COA, the GSIS has had its best financial performance and is at its most stable financial condition." Unfortunately, the finance secretary at that time, Jose Camacho, had a different insight into GSIS operations, deriding its management for ineptitude and laxity. More than a year ago, the GSIS purchased a painting by Juan Luna—"Parisian Life" costing government employees millions of pesos. A few weeks before the elections, the GSIS was offering S.O.S. (Summer-One-Month Salary) loans with low interest rates and easy payment terms and no difficult conditions attached. The GSIS was also spending money like water for paid advertisements, some full-page, others half-page, extolling its efficiency and strength. Now, how could GSIS officials in conscience cut the benefits of survivors in the face of their own profligacy?

The President has sounded the call for sacrifice in order to address a growing crisis. A good starting point would be the perks and privileges of our fat cats in government. Not the puny pensions of widows and widowers. Garcia has offered to return part of his "immoral" income, but this has come only after the spate of bad publicity over the unwarranted compensations. For as long as there was no public outcry, he was comfortable with the situation.

* * *

My good friend, Gen. Thelmo Cunanan, who ended a brilliant military career as chief of Southern Command (Southcom), the largest area command in the Armed Forces of the Philippines, has come out with a half-page advertisement in the INQUIRER, "Setting the record straight about the Philippine National Oil Company." He says that contrary to reports issued by the Department of Finance and the Department of Budget and Management, the PNOC is not losing money. Prior to his assuming the PNOC presidency in February 2001, four out of the six subsidiaries of the PNOC were losing money. When he left in August, all had become profitable with the PNOC posting a net income of P4.6 billion over a three-year period (2001-2003) of his incumbency. At the very least, Cunanan was not a burden to the Filipino taxpayer.

It would be interesting to know how the other GOCCs fared. The problem with annual reports, issued by government corporations in glossy, full-color spreads, is that no one in his right mind will come up with unfavorable write-ups. There will always be ways of sugarcoating the unpalatable.

In the case of the PNOC, even more than profitability is the urgency to craft an aggressive exploration and development strategy which would lessen our dependence on imported crude. There must be more to our native oil resources than Malampaya, a name I first heard too many years ago. With a volatile Middle East situation, we cannot continue to rely on our traditional sources of crude oil with its increasing costs.

To my mind, the appointment of Ed Mañalac as the new PNOC head represents a step in the right direction. I first met Ed when I was posted in Jakarta in 1987. Part of the joy and satisfaction in serving there was the presence of outstanding Filipino expats in various industries and enterprises. They were a source of pride for our country and Ed was one of them. He was president of Phillips Petroleum Indonesia before moving on to China where he stayed for seven years. In 2000, Ed was honored with a Friendship Award by the Chinese government for discovering the largest offshore oil field in China. The following year, he was recognized as the Foreign Model Worker by the China National Offshore Oil Company (CNOOC).

As I mentioned in the beginning of this article, we can do better. We must do better.

Film immortality

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

A FRIEND'S son, who works in Singapore, left his cell phone in a taxi cab. Shortly afterwards, an officemate of his received a text message that said a cell phone with her number in its directory was left behind; if the owner wanted the phone back, he or she should just call up the cab driver. "Truly amazing Singapore!" her son texted my friend.

I told this story in a gathering, in the light of this paper's special reports on cell phone theft, partly to illustrate how different the situation is in Singapore. But then one of those in the gathering, former Health Secretary Jimmy Galvez Tan, said he had a similar experience, not in Singapore but here in Manila. He, too, had left his cell phone in a taxi cab and received a phone call in his home. It was the cab driver and he told Jimmy to pick up the cell phone from the driver's wife who was working somewhere in Quezon City.

"They were a two-income family!" Jimmy exclaimed, perhaps to explain why the driver could "afford" to ignore the easy income. I speculated that in all likelihood, the driver owned the vehicle he was driving. Still, perhaps the anecdotes tell us that Singapore has no monopoly of honest cab drivers, and neither does Manila have a monopoly of cell phone theft.

* * *

THE FRIEDRICH Ebert Foundation hosted a gathering of friends last Friday—cocktails and dinner—at the German Cultural Center bracketing a screening of the restored version of "Metropolis," a silent film created by Austrian-American film director Fritz Lang in 1926. "Metropolis" is the first film entered into Unesco's "Memory of the World" in 2001, even if more than a fourth of the film is presumably lost forever.

Though born in Austria, Lang is considered one of the early exponents of German cinema, helping bring it to the heights of technical and artistic excellence by the mid-1920s. But with the rise of Nazism in the years just before World War II, Germany's best film talents, including Lang who was half-Jewish, chose to migrate to America rather than face persecution and censorship.

Considered a pioneering work of science fiction, "Metropolis" is set in the year 2026, a hundred years from its inception. It tells the story of a city literally divided into two worlds: the "Underground" where live workers and their families who slave away at machines; and the City where the elite live, reveling in their gardens and pleasure palaces.

Traces of Lang's "Metropolis," created in collaboration with his wife Thea Von Harbou, finds resonance in present-day science fiction fantasies, particularly in scenes depicting the city of the future: brightly lit skyscrapers criss-crossed by soaring ribbons of freeways and buzzed by airborne vehicles hovering over the busy landscape.

* * *

EVEN the theme of the movie is echoed in later films, most notably "The Matrix." As in "The Matrix," the main character in "Metropolis," Freder Fredersen, discovers a parallel reality, the world of the workers which he stumbles upon in search of a young woman. In this world, machines reign supreme—the anonymous workers are chained to machines which they have to keep running with endless and repetitive tasks. Stunned by the sight of hundreds of ant-like workers crawling over gigantic machinery, Freder looks on in horror as one worker fails to keep up with the machinery he is handling, causing an explosion. Freder hallucinates, imagining the machine as a monster gobbling up the workers.

Freder rushes to the world aboveground, to his father Joh Fredersen who is the "Master of Metropolis." When Freder confronts him about the appalling way he treats his workers, Joh alludes to the Biblical story of "the Jews enslaved by the Egyptians to build the pyramids."

The allusion is eerie and prescient, for a little over a decade hence, Adolf Hitler and the Nazis would indeed attempt to build a new Germany on the blood and forced labor of Jews and other "outcasts." Even the uniforms of the workers uncannily resemble concentration camp garb.

Freder finally decides that the best way he can find the woman is to return to the Underground and "borrow" the identity of a worker. In this guise, he finally finds the woman "Maria" who, it turns out, is some kind of a spiritual leader, urging the workers to keep their peace until they find the "Mediator" who will lend heart to the workings of "Mind" and "Hands" that keep the "Metropolis" in running order.

* * *

THE CONFLICT between labor and capital, and the search for the mediating influence (not unlike Keanu Reeves' "Messiah" in "The Matrix"), is further complicated by a scientist named Rotwang. He has created a female robot that he hopes will replace his beloved Hel, who had rejected him for Joh Fredersen and died while giving birth to Freder. But when it is discovered that Maria has a hold on the workers, Fredersen convinces the scientist to make the robot look like Maria.

Rotwang, though has a hidden agenda. He programs his robot not just to replace Maria but also to incite the workers to violence. The automaton leads the workers to the machines, urging destruction and mayhem, with the workers not realizing that in destroying the machines, they will also flood their city, endangering their children.

What ensues is a suspenseful chase, as Freder seeks to rescue Maria, and then they both seek to save the children from drowning. In the end, Maria brings Joh Fredersen representing "Mind," the leader of the workers representing "Hands," and Freder as the "Heart," mediating between the two powers of the "Metropolis." For its technical polish and political prescience, "Metropolis" is a film that truly deserves immortality.

Decency in public life

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

IT took a fiscal crisis to force the government to take a hard look at the outrageous salaries that a few public officials are getting for the privilege of serving the nation. If the crisis had not been recognized, if the habit of taking out loans to cover recurrent deficits had not been criticized, the virus of unequal pay for equal work would have quickly overrun the system.

What is particularly galling is that the nation's top officials feign shock over these salaries as if they were learning of them for the first time. These juicy positions are so well-known to politicians who regard them as sinecures reserved to a favored few. Not only that, the laws that exclude them from the scope of the Salary Standardization Law were passed by Congress and approved by the President. The Commission on Audit, moreover, is supposed to submit to the President and Congress an annual report that describes the financial condition of the government and all its instrumentalities "and recommend measures necessary to improve their effectiveness and efficiency."

If there were more integrity and less hypocrisy in government, our basic laws would suffice.

The basic law governing compensations in public service is found in Art. IX-B, Sec. 5 of the 1987 Constitution: "The Congress shall provide for the standardization of compensation of government officials and employees, including those in government-owned or -controlled corporations with original charters, taking into account the nature of the responsibilities pertaining to, and the qualifications required for their positions."

On July 1, 1989, Congress passed RA 6758 or the Compensation and Position Act, which prescribes a revised compensation and classification system for the government. This is the system that is now followed in all the offices and agencies of government, except in those agencies that were later exempted by law or were organized as subsidiaries of GOCCs under the general corporation law. Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin was thus correct when she said that the incredible salaries assigned to certain positions in some GOCCs and GFIs were allowed by law. But, of course, not everything that is allowed by law makes good moral or managerial sense. The responsibility for ensuring that the law is not abused rests ultimately with the President. Though long overdue, President Macapagal-Arroyo's recent order to reduce these atrocious salaries is a step in the right direction. But it is not enough.

When private corporations or enterprises run into trouble, their managers are held accountable by their boards and ultimately by their owners and stockholders. But when public firms are mismanaged or go bankrupt, who will make them answer for their deeds? To whom are the National Power Corp., Government Service Insurance System, Social Security System, Development Bank of the Philippines, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Pagcor, PhilHealth, and the Philippine National Oil Co. accountable if not to the President? The mechanisms to monitor their performance are all in place. Unless the Office of the President does its work, keeping in mind the basic principles of good housekeeping, it will not take long before the government breaks down.

The basic principles governing just compensation in the public service are clearly defined by the law. These are: (1) equal pay for substantially equal work, (2) differences in pay must be based on differences in duties and responsibilities and qualification requirements, and (3) government compensation must be competitive with prevailing rates in the private sector, taking into account budget constraints.

In accordance with these principles, Congress created 33 salary grades under RA 6758. The highest, SG 33, is assigned to the President of the Republic. No other position is comparable. SG 32 is assigned to the Vice President, to the Senate president, the Speaker of the House, and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. SG 31 is assigned to senators, congressmen, associate justices of the Supreme Court, chairmen of constitutional commissions, Cabinet members, and the president of the University of the Philippines. It is worth noting that none of these salary grades today pays more than P80,000 per month in basic compensation. This makes the position of President of the Philippines roughly the equivalent of a junior executive position in a top multinational company.

The president, the senators, and the congressmen—with the generous perks and pork barrel at their disposal—may have no need for adjustment in their basic pay. But if their compensation is not adjusted, compensation at the lower levels of the bureaucracy remains frozen. Professors in state universities and surgeons in public hospitals receive fixed salaries equal to the pay of new graduates working at call centers. Until a few months ago, the basic pay of the civilian faculty at the Philippine Military Academy was lower than the salary of the cadets.

The situation was so absurd even then that when the salary standardization law was passed, Congress was swamped with bills seeking exemption from its coverage. The first to be exempted were precisely the GOCCs and GFIs that claimed to have enough incomes that permitted them to pay private sector rates. The result of this is that the despair of all the other government agencies grew in proportion to the benefits enjoyed by those who were exempted.

No matter how good a nation's laws are, if its officials are ruled by cynicism and opportunism, it will have no future. The first rule of public life is basic decency.

* * *

Comments to davidinquirer@yahoo.com

SEA in the groove

EYE ON ASIA

Karim Raslan

THE RELEASE of Malaysia's former deputy prime minister Anwar Ibrahim and the forthcoming presidential run-off in Indonesia between Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Megawati Sukarnoputri are important and positive milestones for Southeast Asia.

Six years ago, a peaceful and successful electoral contest in Indonesia with polls for local, regional and federal leaders would have been unimaginable. At the same time, a freed Anwar seemed an impossibility.

But the region has finally emerged from the gloom and political uncertainty of the 1997 financial crisis. Southeast Asia is not the Middle East. The region's two largest majority Muslim societies—Malaysia and Indonesia—have shown that the tilt toward authoritarianism and repression can be reversed, and that Islamic extremism is of limited popular appeal.

At the same time, the region is reestablishing itself as an attractive and dynamic destination for inward investment and business. While China and India are full of potentials, it's arguable that Southeast Asia, having endured seven years of turmoil, has proven its resilience and its ability to cope with change.

Getting here has not been easy.

We have been lucky that, in the aftermath of 9/11, US policymakers view Southeast Asia only as the "Second Front" of the "War on Terror." Had we been the "First Front," we might well have attracted the same kind of heavy-handed and dangerously simplistic attention as the Middle East.

America, forgetting the persuasiveness of its popular culture and business links, has neglected to wield its soft power. Quiet and sustained diplomatic pressure can achieve unexpectedly powerful results if the commercial world is drawn in.

Grand schemes for democratization and the introduction of civil liberties are fiercely resented as forms of cultural imperialism by the region's proud nation-states. Such ambitiousness also fails to take account of underlying regional and national peculiarities.

Instead, Southeast Asia has had the space to craft its own responses to socio-political challenges, drawing on the support and experience of those from outside the region, when and where it wanted.

The Indonesian elections and Anwar's release are part of this slow but steady march toward democratization as institutions grow in credibility and legitimacy. But there are many obstacles along the way, as the veteran Indonesian newsmagazine editor from Tempo, Bambang Harymurti—dogged with a controversial defamation suit—is discovering.

Both countries have also been fortunate in the quality of their leadership. For all her faults (and there are many), President Megawati has shown rare patience and forbearance. Realizing the importance of reconciliation, she resisted the impulse to go on an anti-Suharto witch-hunt. She has provided her vast nation with a rock-solid center around which to rebuild its institutions.

However, her limited intellectual ability and her lack of vision have prevented Indonesia from making more progress. In essence, while she has consolidated the democratic gains of the "*reformasi*" era, she has failed to address the weak governance and corruption that bedevil Indonesia. Should Susilo win, the country will soar—although it will be an Indonesia of Megawati's making that he will inherit.

Malaysia's Prime Minister Abdullah Badawi possesses the same quiet confidence as Megawati. However, his commitment to reform, his adroit political skills and his principled vision far outshine the diffident lady president.

Abdullah understood from day one that Malaysia needed to resolve the dilemma posed by Anwar's continued detention. The country's international reputation would remain tarnished as long as Anwar and injustice were bracketed together.

In allowing the legal process to move ahead unimpeded—and, therefore, Anwar's sodomy conviction to be quashed—the prime minister has effectively signaled the paramount importance of his reform agenda and an independent judiciary.

Abdullah has also given the nation closure on a series of tragic events that occurred six years earlier. The sacking, arrest, trial, beating and conviction of Anwar both traumatized and stigmatized Malaysia.

Still, internal reforms have to be built from the ground upwards. Unlike Anwar, whose flashy and pleasant-sounding rhetorical flourishes enthralled the world in the mid-'90s, Abdullah worked diligently both to communicate his message and implement change.

Abdullah's strategy has focused on the "buy-in." Notwithstanding his Islamic credentials, he has actively reached out to Malaysia's diverse multi-religious population. At the same time, he has made gender rights an important aspect of his administration.

Malaysians, for their part, have tired of autocrats. They do not want to be berated and lectured at anymore. They want leaders who are straight-dealing, honest and principled. Demagoguery and street protests—so characteristic of the turmoil following Anwar's sacking—are also a thing of the past. Malaysians recoil from those who use race and religion to push their private ambition.

Democratization is not a smooth or straight-forward process. There are many different paths and local obstacles. On this journey, each society has to find its own way and its own speed. Thankfully, after seven years of relative inactivity, Southeast Asia appears to be hitting its groove.

THEY SAID

Beyond salvation

"PR can't save Congress anymore. It's a pity that it has come to this."

—Rep. Teodoro Locsin Jr. on the proposal of some congressmen to hire a public relations expert to improve the image problem of the House of Representatives

Cellular feelings

"Filipinos are among the most sensitive in the world. When they begin to see their own lawmakers being exempted from the very laws they make, when the rich get away with crimes involving millions of pesos while a pauper lands in jail for P40, it's easy to understand how they would feel."

—Humanities professor Felipe de Leon Jr. on why people buy cheap second-hand cell phones, never mind if they were stolen at the cost of their original owners' lives

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TALK of the TOWN

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Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

UP 11 plan: Can it keep RP afloat? (4)

ECONOMISTS from the University of the Philippines and groups like the Freedom from Debt Coalition, Focus on Global South, Fair Trade Alliance and Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) agree that the country is in fiscal crisis. But they differ on the causes of the crisis and the solutions that they offer to head off an economic collapse.

Eleven professors at the UP School of Economics (UPSE) have attributed the widening public sector deficit and rising debt in large part to the falling revenue and tax efforts and to the huge losses of government corporations, particularly the National Power Corp.

They are urging the government to adopt revenue and cost-saving measures such as imposing an additional tax of P2 per liter on petroleum products, raising government fees, cutting the pork barrel of legislators, pegging taxes on tobacco and alcohol to inflation and downsizing the bureaucracy.

But the Freedom from Debt Coalition (FDC), Focus on Global South (FGS) and Fair Trade Alliance (FTA) point out that the solution offered by the UP economists is inadequate because it ignores unilateral trade liberalization, smuggling and debt relief.

Now come six Ph.D. students defending their mentors at the UPSE. They claim that criticisms of their professors' report are biased and economically unsound. Bayan, for its part, says that for the proposed solutions to succeed they must address the issue of social justice.

In the end, one's views depend on the theoretical framework (whether neoliberalism or not) he or she uses to explain why the country's economy is in bad shape and what can be done to fix it. But the success of any proposed solution hinges on political will and popular support.

The Bello, et al. critique: Biased and economically unsound

By Marife Lou Bacate, Adele Casorla, Sarah Lynne Daway, Roselle Dime, Emmanuel San Andres and Randy Tuaño

Walden Bello, Lidy Nacpil, and Ana Maria Nemenzo came out with a critique of the study released by 11 professors from the UP School of Economics [Talk of the Town, Sept. 5]. The study outlined some of the causes of the fiscal crisis our country is facing and suggested how this deepening crisis may be prevented from leading to an Argentina-type economic crisis.

The critics contended that the economists' study was overdue, biased for trade liberalization and lacking in courage. They recommended two measures: (1) the reversal of trade liberalization and the raising of tariffs, and (2) the devaluation of the foreign debt.

They claimed that the report was "selective" because it omitted an important cause of the decline in tax revenues: the reduction in tariff collections due to liberalization.

To prove their point, they cited former Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho (1, See Notes) in reporting that, "Customs collections declined from 5.6 percent of GDP in the mid-1990s to 2.8 percent in 2002." This is an example of the *post hoc, ergo propter hoc* fallacy: just because liberalization happened before the fall in revenue effort doesn't mean that the former caused the latter.

Tariff cuts

The "unilateral liberalization program initiated by Ramos' technocrats" mostly happened in the early and mid-1990s. The aim of trade liberalization was to reduce the overall level of tariffs as well as their dispersion to reduce the protectionist barriers to efficiency and enhance the competitiveness of domestic industry, which had been stymied by decades of protection.

If the decrease in tariff collection is indeed the "key" culprit behind the country's fiscal woes, then revenue effort should have started falling at around the same time. But this is not the case. In fact, revenue effort was on the uptrend from an average of 14 to 16 percent between 1990 and the Asian crisis in 1997, after which tax effort declined steeply from 15.63 percent in 1998 to 12.5 percent in 2003.

Even then, the large drop in tax effort starting 1997 cannot be blamed primarily on tariff reduction, as Bureau of Customs revenue effort was fairly stable from 1998 to 2003. Despite the fact that the largest reductions in tariffs occurred in 1994 to 1995, import duties went up slightly from 3.55 to 3.57 percent during that time (2). Clearly, tariff reduction is not the "key" culprit for the country's revenue problems.

It is also erroneous to assert that tariff reduction should lead to a corresponding decrease in Customs collections, as this presumes that demand for imports cannot rise with lower import prices. Furthermore, liberalization reduces the effective tariffs on inputs, encouraging firm production, spurring economic growth and controlling inflation, especially because over 80 percent of our imports consist of raw materials, intermediate goods and capital equipment.

To cite only lost revenues and neglect a policy's impact on growth and price stability is itself highly selective. In fact, referring to trade liberalization during the 1990s, Camacho states, "The ... policy directions were clearly well-intended to induce economic growth and, perhaps, it did accomplish that.... (3)" He then blames the 1997 Asian crisis for the country's sluggish economic growth which "did not only prevent the fiscal harvest, it also damaged the existing tax revenue base."

On devaluing foreign debt

The critics propose that we should follow Argentina's example, which grew at seven percent in 2003, "unburdened by debt payments." This is another *post hoc, ergo propter hoc* fallacy. Contrary to such argument, Argentina's economic growth recovered in 2003 due to the high prices of their agricultural exports (mainly soy beans) and public finances have improved due to the windfall tax on tradables (4).

Moreover, they failed to mention that after the default of 2001, Argentina's gross domestic product contracted by 10.9 percent in 2002, which led to massive disinvestment.

If defaulting on our foreign debt is so bad for the economy, why then did "UPSE economists" suggest it in 1985? The reason is obvious: the Philippines was in 1985 what Argentina was in 2001. After an economic contraction starting in 1983, the Philippines faced a critical situation of dwindling foreign reserves and already lost access to international credit markets in 1985.

Moreover, even if that had not been the case, defaulting on our debt in 1985 could have been argued from a moral standpoint, as these loans were contracted onerously by a dictator.

At present, however, we are not yet where Argentina was in 2001, or where we were in 1985. The economy not only maintains access to international credit markets, it also retains a strong reserve position, mainly from remittances by overseas Filipino workers. Devaluing our debt is equivalent to defaulting on our debt and would only serve to precipitate an Argentina-like crisis, which is exactly what we are trying to prevent.

They further assert that "about 80 percent of the total debt is owed to foreign creditors." Figures from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas show that of the P5.39 trillion total public sector debt, P2.67 trillion, only 49.5 percent, is owed to foreign creditors (5). This means that more than half of the total public debt is owed to local lenders—among them local banks and cooperatives that buy T-bills. Indeed, Filipinos hold quite an amount even of foreign-denominated debt.

Defaulting on debt under these circumstances is not tantamount to making the foreigners share the burden, but more like shooting oneself in the foot.

The critique then objects to characterizing interest rates as "quite benign," pointing to the unequal interest rates charged to developing and developed countries. What they fail to include in their argument is that interest rates are returns to loans plus risk premiums—countries (and borrowers) that are riskier necessarily face higher interest rates.

"Quite benign" refers to the fact that we are facing interest rates that are at an all-time low in international credit markets. The three-month London Inter-bank Overnight Rate was at 1.21 percent in 2004 (compared with 8.39 percent in 1985), while the 91-day local T-bill rate as of June was at 7.6 percent (6). It is for this very reason that it has actually been cheaper to borrow from the international credit market than from local creditors.

If the interest rates charged the country have risen recently, this has been due not to an inordinate rise in rates but on the premium being charged a country that cannot seem to get its finances fixed. By contrast, countries with sound financial positions obtain substantially lower rates.

On timeliness

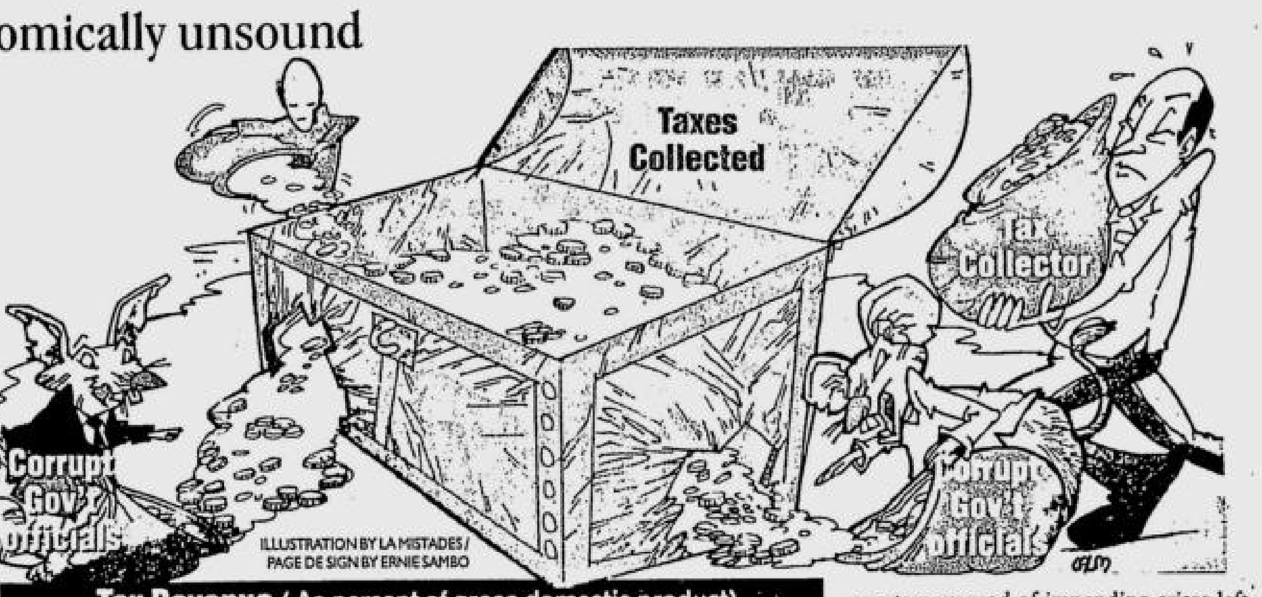
The three critics claim that the UPSE study was overdue—more than a year since Camacho warned the public of the fiscal crisis in a June 2003 paper. Moreover, they contend that the study should have come out before the May elections to act "as a brake on the administration's spending its way to victory."

During the campaign period many quarters warned of impending crises left and right—the energy crisis, the fiscal crisis, etc. Releasing the study during those emotionally charged times would have just relegated it to a footnote on one of the inside business pages, as the earlier warnings by Camacho and Standard Chartered aptly demonstrated.

They further argued that releasing the report before the elections would have prevented the administration's "spending its way to victory."

This is politically naïve and opens up the question of whether or not there was anything that could have thwarted an incumbent administration from spending on the elections. Given the very tight contest between President Macapagal-Arroyo and Fernando Poe, Jr., we doubt whether any report (on the fiscal crisis or otherwise) could have stayed the hand of the administration from ensuring its victory.

The UP economists' study is not the last paper on the fiscal crisis, and the critique will not be the last one on the study. Differences may persist, but these must be based on sound economic reasoning and not simply on ideological reflex.



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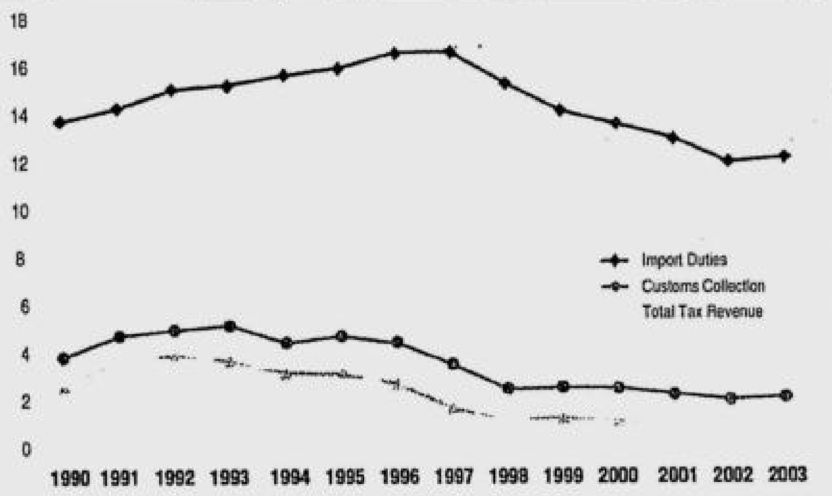
Tax Revenue (As percent of gross domestic product)



SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

Notes:

1. Bello, et al. actually cite Eric Boras, who cited Camacho in his Oct. 20, 2003 article. Camacho's original paper reports that BoC collections fell to 2.4 percent of GDP in 2002.

2. Fiscal Policy and Planning Office, Department of Finance.

3. Jose Isidro Camacho in "A Roadmap to Fiscal Deliverance," page 4.

4. The Economist, July 3, 2004.

5. BSP website, Figures as of January 2004.

6. Ibid.

(The authors are Ph.D. students at the University of the Philippines School of Economics)

'A solution must first of all be socially just'

By Dr. Carol Pagaduan-Araullo

The whole problem with the debate on the fiscal crisis is not so much, as the UP economics students say in their rebuttal of the Bello-Nakpil-Nemenzo paper, the lack of "sound economic reasoning." The problem is the lack of plain common sense in the analysis and remedies of the Arroyo administration, the 11 UP economics professors, Bello-Nakpil-Nemenzo, and the UP economics students themselves.

First, common sense dictates that before you offer solutions, you must first diagnose the problem. The bigger and more chronic the problem, the deeper one must study and identify the causes and the more radical the solutions. "Band aid" remedies may cover up and alleviate the condition temporarily, but these will only aggravate the problem in the long run.

Second, all the analyses and "solutions" offered so far have not squarely addressed the social and political dimensions of the crisis. They conveniently overlook and are silent on the question of social justice, suggesting that the only way to tide over the crisis is by increasing the burden on those who have borne the brunt of hardship and sacrifice.

The Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) takes the position that the current fiscal crisis and the impending repeat of a deeper and more devastating financial crisis than the one that hit the country in 1997, is but part of the chronic crisis of the agrarian and pre-industrial economy resulting in a continuing pattern of unequal colonial trade despite the so-called grant of independence in 1946. Further, Bayan asserts that no economic measure can solve the problem without first of all being socially just.

Chronic deficit

A fundamental feature of the Philippine economy is its inherent inability to earn enough from its exports in order to pay for its imports, especially from the US, Japan and the rest of the developed capitalist world.

We export raw materials and semi-processed or low value-added goods and import oil, machinery and a wide range of durable and non-durable manufactured goods such as cars, computers, electronic gadgets, food and clothes. This has resulted in chronic balance of trade and current account deficits because earnings from exports could not catch up with expenditures on imports.

That is why, since the Marcos dictatorship there has been growing dependence on some eight million overseas Filipinos who remit into the country more than $7 billion.

With the onset of "globalization' and the neo-liberal policy prescriptions of trade and investment liberalization, deregulation and privatization, whatever local industries could survive in the stunted economy were further subjected to unfair competition, dumping, cut-price tactics, and government exactions and restrictions until many more folded up.

Even the agriculture sector has been ravaged by the removal of protective tariffs and subsidies, with vastly cheaper agricultural imports flooding the market and driving tens of thousands of farmers to bankruptcy.

Because the economy cannot earn enough foreign exchange with this institutionalized unequal trade, the government has resorted to foreign and domestic borrowing.

Attracting foreign investments have become the be-all and end-all especially when cheap foreign loans dried up in the 80s. The belief was, this would set up the factories, create the jobs and generate the social wealth and capital needed to move the entire country forward.

But decades of reliance on foreign investments, loans and official development aid have caused further de-industrialization. The only "industries" existing today are those in extractive activities such as mining and those in semi-processing that produce low value-added commodities, more than 90 percent of which are made up of imported raw materials.

Sea of poverty

On top of all this, instead of helping develop the country, these foreign monopoly capitalists have siphoned off whatever domestic capital there is by sourcing their capital requirements locally instead of bringing in their much-touted investments and by repatriating billions of dollars of profit abroad.

The logical outcome is a vast sea of poverty and misery encompassing the entire country and people. According to census data, 75 percent or 58 million people are forced to live on P82 a day while 90 percent eke out a living on P137 or lower daily. A recent Asian Development Bank report said 12 percent of Filipinos were in "extreme poverty" and were forced to subsist on $1 (P57) or lower a day.

Fundamentally unsound

What has been papered over by government, the UP economists as well as Bello and company is the fact that the country's economic fundamentals are not sound.

The UP study draws attention to the economy's heightened vulnerability to "any large external shock" such as a sudden increase in global interest rates, a sustained increase in world oil prices, a sharp decline in overseas workers' remittances or anything that could cause the import bill to rise, including, ironically, attempts to revive an import-dependent, export-oriented economy.

Most damning of all is what the UP economists aptly described as the "deepening crisis" of the deficit and public debt. The deficit and debt are merely the exposed portions of the huge and festering problems of the economy: its basic incapacity to produce adequately for the people's needs because of feudal ownership of land and the absence of industrialization; its debt addiction and ensuing enslavement to international usury; and its lack of sovereign protection in the face of policy dictates of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, and the importunings of monopoly capital as a whole.

To utilize a commonsensical analogy, how can the patient be fundamentally healthy if what is diagnosed by the experts as a simple case of cold turns out to be a deadly pneumonia.

Finally, where does social justice enter the picture in all the fine discourse about the current fiscal crisis and how to ride it out?

Sadly, the various "solutions" being pushed by government, academics, clerics, civic leaders and what not reflect this utter callousness and insensitivity to the people's demand for social justice.

The UP economists' paper warns against solutions that not only have little chance of succeeding, but would likely stir social unrest. But it falls short of requiring that a "solution" must first of all be socially just.

(Carol Pagaduan-Araullo is the chair of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan)

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26 drug gangs operate in C. Visayas

By Jolene R. Bulambot
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—At least 26 illegal drug syndicates are operating in Central Visayas, according to the latest intelligence report of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA).

The report, which was submitted during a hearing here by the House committee on dangerous drugs, said that seven of these drug groups are based in Cebu.

Director Anselmo Avenido, head of the PDEA, declined to provide details about the drug syndicates; saying it would jeopardize their investigation.

But he promised to submit the names of the drug syndicates to the committee members led by Cebu City Rep. Antonio Cuenco during an executive session.

Avenido said PDEA lacks special equipment and techniques that include the use of wire-tapping, to combat the drug menace.

Avenido said he believed that the Antiwire Tapping Law would need to be amended so that it could be used in the antidrug operations.

He told the committee that the difficulty of arresting big-time drug lords and drug personalities was due to the difficulty of securing evidence against them.

"The reason why big time drug lords are arrested in other countries because they are caught talking with their runners, the result of wire-tapping is used as evidence against them. We should allow the special operational technique to strengthen our operations and this could be done with a proposal to amend the Wire-Tapping Law," he said.

Despite its handicap, Avenido said the PDEA was able to seize P12.77 billion worth of dangerous drugs during the first half of this year.

It also reported that since January to August this year, 27 drug groups from all over the country have been neutralized while 19,196 drug personalities were arrested.

In their report, PDEA said that in Central Visayas alone, it had undertaken 171 buy-bust operations, applied for 118 search warrant applications, eradicated 24 marijuana plantations, and filed 691 cases during the period Jan. 1 to Sept. 17, 2004.

The report also revealed the illegal drugs confiscated: 2,992 grams of shabu, .20 grams of cocaine and 23,979 pieces of marijuana.

Avenido testified yesterday that the drug syndicates operating in the country "are very advanced" and that PDEA is relying mostly on the assistance rendered by their foreign counterparts.

The PDEA official cited the case of the apprehension of the 60 drums of pseudoephedrine, a chemical that can be used to make shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride), earlier seized this year at the Cebu International Port.

Hopes high Mindanaoan to win business award

DAVAO CITY—In these most trying times and when inspiration is so scarce, another Mindanaoan might yet become one of the next recipient of the Entrepreneur of the Year Award Philippines and would have the opportunity to represent the country in the global entrepreneur award to be held in Monaco next year.

Last year's list of recipients for the award included Tony Tan Caktiong of Jollibee fame. Caktiong grew up here.

Francis Huang, senior director of SGV Foundation, said they are hoping to see lots of nominations from Mindanao, especially in the field of agribusiness which is this year's Industry-Specific Entrepreneur Award.

Considering that Mindanao is a highly-agricultural region with its land booming with plantations and other small agricultural and livelihood ventures, a Mindanaoan is then likely to get the award, he said.

The winner of the Entrepreneur of the Year Philippines Award would not receive monetary reward.

But Huang pointed out that winning opens up a lot of opportunities and prestige as what Caktiong got.

He was named World Entrepreneur for 2004, besting other hopefuls from developed countries such as the United States, Great Britain and Germany.

Huang said this year's winner of the Philippine industry-specific award will be sent to Monte Carlo in Monaco in May 2005 for the World Entrepreneur Award.

The Entrepreneur of the Year Philippines was founded in 2003 by the SGV Foundation in partnership with the Bankers Association of the Philippines, Department of Trade and Industry, Philippine Business for Social Progress, and the University of the Philippines-College of Business Administration.

Huang said the selection of agribusiness as this year's Industry-Specific Entrepreneur Award is anchored on the recognition that it is a very important sector although it was not given enough attention in the past.

"We have to celebrate this particular field," Huang said. *Jeffrey M. Tupas and Joel B. Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

DEVOTION VAL HANDUMON
An unidentified devotee prays intensely in front of the image of the Our Lady of Peñafrancia. The feast of the image draws thousands every year to Naga City. The image is believed to have miraculous powers.

Appeals court says SEC may interfere in Baguio Country Club elections

BAGUIO CITY—The Court of Appeals has dismissed a government appeal seeking a reversal of its March 26 ruling that orders the Securities and Exchange Commission to back out of a Baguio Country Club election dispute involving feuding relatives of the club's late president and chair, Potenciano Ilusorio.

In a three-page resolution issued on Sept. 1, the CA said the Office of the Solicitor General had no new arguments to reverse its decision to stop SEC from intervening in the club's Nov. 5, 2003 stockholders' meeting, where a new board was to be elected.

The OSG said the SEC merely asserted its regulatory powers last year when it compelled BCC officials to abide by its by-laws, which grant its directors only a single mandatory term of office.

Reiterating the CA's March ruling, Associate Justices Danilo Pine, Elvi John Asuncion and Monina Zenarosa said the dispute over the stockholders' meeting "does not call for the SEC's power of regulation and supervision."

"In sum, the resolution of the dispute requires the exercise of a function (that is) judicial in nature, which SEC can no longer perform (because the Securities Regulation Code gives this discretion to regional trial courts)," the resolution read.

But in its March 26 ruling, the CA also maintained that it recognized Ramon Ilusorio's stake in the BCC as a stockholder, over the objections of the club management.

Lawyer Federico Agcaoili, club president, sued SEC for grave abuse of discretion before the CA when it released an order forbidding the club from pursuing its stockholders' meeting.

A SEC directive also placed the club's future assemblies and board elections under its jurisdiction, pending a resolution to the complaint filed by Ramon, a son of Ilusorio.

In a statement, Agcaoili blamed Ramon and Ilusorio's widow, Erlinda, for "soliciting" SEC's help in compromising the club's November 2003 elections.

Erlinda and her sons and daughters had been involved in a custody fight over Ilusorio, and are pursuing proprietary claims over the patriarch's assets after his death in June 2001.

Based on the SEC directive last year, Agcaoili, in an earlier interview, said the commission barred the stockholders' meeting because SEC representatives speculated that the assembly would not attract a quorum of stockholders to legitimize the elections.

Agcaoili said the club cooperated with the SEC when it audited BCC's corporate activities. But he said they were caught off guard by SEC's decision to stop the prescheduled board elections.

The stockholders' meeting, however, proceeded on Nov. 6, 2003, and its stockholders reelected its old board members.

Agcaoili retained his post, alongside two Ilusorio children, Maximo and Sylvia, who chairs the board. Also reelected last year were Rodolfo Albano Jr., Victoria delos Reyes, Jose Roman Ozaeta and Juan Carlos del Rosario.

The only addition to the board's composition was the election of three advisers: former Tarlac Gov. Margarita Cojuangco, Ernest Escaler and lawyer Moises Cating. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Hostage-taker killed, 3 hurt in Cadiz City

BACOLOD CITY—A hostage-taker suffering from a nervous breakdown was killed, while his father, a city police chief and a policeman were injured at about 5:20 p.m. on Friday.

Killed was Sofronio Beira Jr., 43, of Hacienda Mayo, Barangay Sicaba, Cadiz City, according to Supt. Mark Edison Belarma, Negros Occidental police director.

Beira Jr., armed with a nine-inch knife, held his father, Sofronio Sr., 71, and his son, Jun Edward Beira, 11, hostage in his house for still undetermined reasons.

Beira Jr. stabbed his father in the stomach as the police tried to negotiate for his surrender and his family urged him to give up.

Chief Insp. Edgardo Ordaniel, Cadiz City police chief, who responded to the hostage-taking incident, was stabbed in the left arm when he tried to take the knife away from Beira Jr.

Another policeman, PO2 Arnold Caña, also suffered stab wounds in the left hand as he tried to grab the knife from Beira Jr.

This prompted the police to shoot the younger Beira, a Cadiz police report said.

Police said the younger Beira was suffering from a nervous breakdown. *Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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Bayang's liberation and journey to peace

By Jeffrey M. Tupas
Davao City

Siyam na taon sa kulungan
Ng mga yakap na mahigpit
Yakap na kay lupit yakap na kay sakit
Kaya ko naman daw siyang pasanin
Kaya ko naman daw siyang buhayin
Kaya, kaya, kaya nga ba?
Halik ng kanyang kamao
Ang sa aki'y sumasalubong
Galit niya sa mundo
Sa aking pagkakababae ibinabaon
–Awit ni Rosario, "Panaw"

BAYANG in a showbusiness pose.

ONE MOMENT, she was as restless as a lost soul as she wriggled and wobbled, as if somebody else was trying to possess her, to drive out her lost soul to total oblivion.

In another, she danced, sang and mumbled something that segued into a poignant chant that could hit anyone through. Her face that had been concealed by long, black hair gleamed amid flickering candles and strangely flowing women dressed up in earthly green.

The next showed the synergy of unexplainable energies among the women, with her as the ever prominent figure.

For Bayang Barrios, being part of the Mebuyan Peace Project's "Panaw" (Journey) that ran in Davao City for one night as part of the "Kadayawan" festivities was so special.

She was able to "gymnasticize" her craft as she played the roles of a daughter named Rosario and her dead mother Delia, who were both confronted with the same problem: domestic violence.

"Playing the part was really special to me. I got that feeling of spiritual fulfillment that anybody can't pay at any price. The feeling was not so much about the other people but about me," Bayang said.

Battered wife, battered child

Bayang admitted that she was a product of a broken family. Interviewed by this writer after her performance at the Matina Town Square's Taboan, she said she grew up in a situation in which her father left her mother crying and all bruised-up.

She herself suffered from beatings by her father. "I saw the world of Rosario. I saw the world of Delia and we were having the same experience. Mebuyan opened the door for me ... that I can rise from the burying situation that had me for many years," she said.

"My mother was a battered-wife herself. I had a broken family. The memories and flashbacks helped me in my portrayal of the roles ... there really was a connection between me, Rosario and Delia."

"Panaw," which was staged several times in India, is an hourlong musical packed with soulful voices, rousing but candid lyrics, and dances by Davao's contemporary women's group Mebuyan Peace Project.

Geejay Arriola, the "brains, more-or-less" of "Panaw," said that while the production showed multiple realities, they opted to be "cool" in presenting the main issue of domestic violence.

The 14 songs said a lot. Arriola said they avoided spoon-feeding the audience, especially with an issue so common among many Filipino families.

"Our approach is guess-what-is-happening rather than this-is-what-is-happening," said Arriola, who stressed that going this way entailed a difficulty of putting the message across to their audience.

"But so far we got no complaints. I think, we got a very intelligent audience—Filipinos and some people abroad."

Tale of 2 women

"Panaw" tells of two women, Rosario and Delia, both in the way of looking for meaning for their existence and finding answers to issues they confronted.

Rosario's journey started from her experience of violence in the hands of an abusive husband, who cared less despite the fact that she was the family's breadwinner, having worked abroad as a domestic helper.

Her mother Delia started her own journey in the world of Mebuyan, the Bagobo and Manobo mythical goddess of the underworld.

Because Rosario wanted to find her own self as she tried to escape from her violent life, she took a trip back to her province and climbed Mt. Malakinay where she met Bae Malimlim, a tribal priestess.

Bae Malimlim played a crucial role in Rosario's search for answers. The priestess introduced to the OFW the world of Mebuyan through a powerful ritual that opened a window for her to see the restive soul of her mother. Delia's restlessness was due to the fact that she and her daughter shared a common fate.

"Our attack was to find a connection from the power of Mebuyan as an underworld goddess and the life of Rosario and Delia's own struggle through Bae Malimlim," Arriola said.

Contemporary meaning

As contemporary women, Arriola said, they could not identify with ancient myth but admitted that they are aware that myths like Mebuyan have meaning.

Their understanding and interpretation of existing researches about Mebuyan, Arriola said, was that the goddess took care of dead children and all souls, including those of adults who must pass through Mebuyan's world before their final destination.

Mebuyan's world, she said, was filled with candles and each candle represented life. Mebuyan's role, she added, was to cleanse the souls of the dead and in the play, the goddess was cleansing the soul of Delia.

"In mythical reality, Delia was telling Mebuyan her problems. Delia could not journey on because of her baggage. Unless her daughter's problem is settled, she could not proceed to her final destination," Arriola said.

BAYANG in her earlier performances.

Songs of death, life

Bayang's portrayal of Rosario was distinct from her portrayal of Delia. She was basically singing when she was Rosario and was dancing all throughout when she was Delia. At one time though, she did both things when the women's energy and spirits came in unison.

Arriola believed that their music, as it told the stories of the two women, opened the senses of the people to the "songs of the past, tragedies of the present, and the rhythms of power and inspiration toward a hopeful future for the two women."

And the truth came unfolding before the senses of Rosario as she felt the gravity of her own and her mother's pain and struggle.

"Rosario began to ponder life. Is it to die without fighting, without meaning? Or is it to live like a dead or to die with meaning. The songs say that even parting can be death in itself but never mind because there is life after death," Arriola said.

Vital messages

For Bayang, the message of the songs are too important to be missed by women who suffer tremendous abuses from the very people whom they expected to protect them—their husbands and other members of their family—the very people whom they love.

"This is for women who do not know what to do when they are in the situation of crisis—the women who always rely on their husbands. Who gave their all for their husbands, and suffered a lot because of their husbands," Bayang said.

Like Rosario, who decided to liberate and free herself from her husband, Bayang stressed that it was important for suffering women to fight for their own rights.

For the Mebuyan Peace Project, making a statement for the women is like being the goddess herself, who according to the myth, refused to go to heaven in her desire to build her own world.

"Mebuyan is powerful. When she refused to go to heaven to build her own world, that was a statement of power ... assertion," Arriola said.

"And the fact that she takes care of the souls illustrates that she doesn't only have power but also a nurturing attitude that is so woman. She's very woman and that is something that she wants to reclaim."

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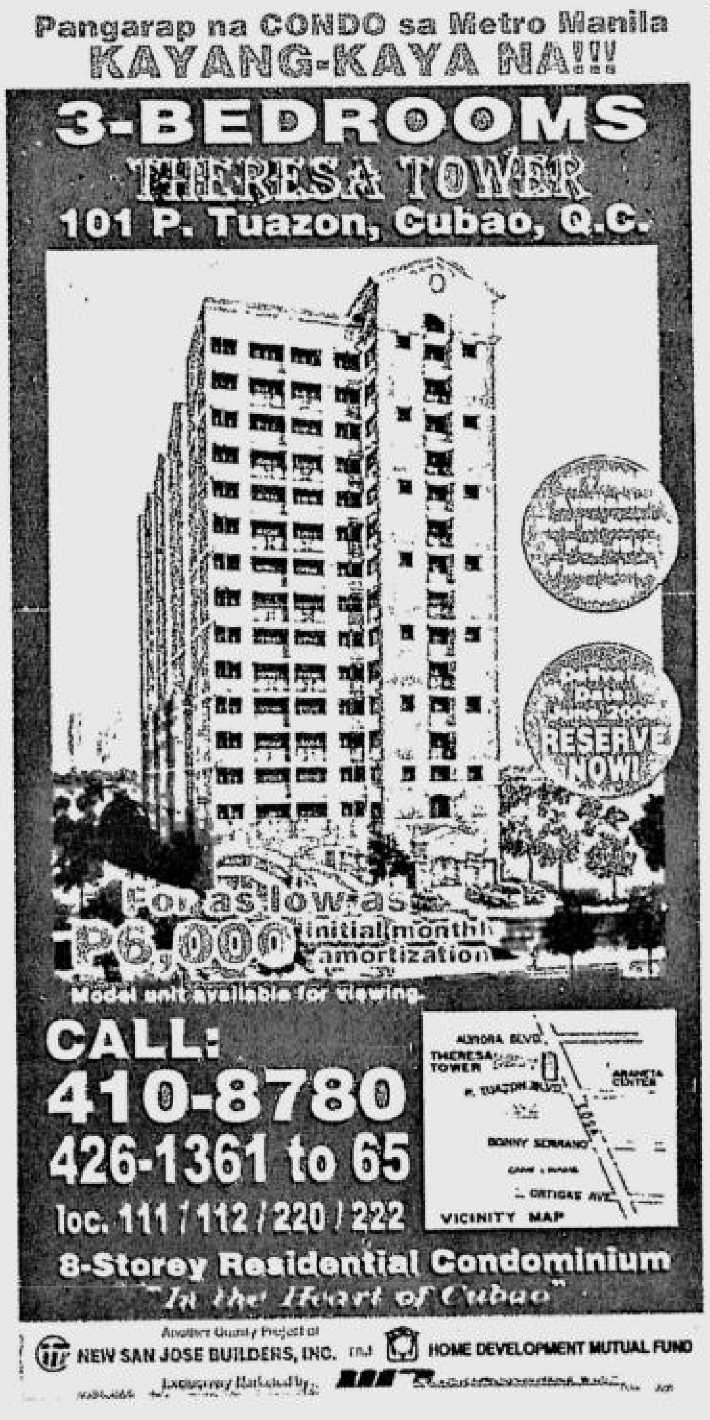
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Hope for RP springs eternal for ageless Jesuit

From page A1

In fact, support for Erda is bigger abroad than here, and the joke among his staff is that it's hazardous for anyone to just sit next to Tritz. On several occasions, his co-passengers in a speeding train in Europe ended up forking over sums of money or later sending him checks after hearing his story about the Filipino children.

Born in the French region close to the German border, Tritz entered the Jesuit order at the tender age of 19.

In 1936, he began his lifelong dream of becoming a missionary in China, where he was ordained a priest in Shanghai in 1947.

He celebrates his 71st year in the Jesuit order this year, and he says with a big smile that he intends to outlive two other Philippine-based Jesuits in their late 90's who have been in the order longer.

Young Jesuits in the 1930s were inspired by older missionaries like the famed Fr. Mateo Ricci, who blazed the trail in China. Tritz wanted to follow in their footsteps and insisted on being sent to that country, where he taught in various schools for 12 years in a most turbulent era.

The fall of China to the communists in 1949 caught him in a visit to France, and he was sent to the Philippines in October 1950 to await, or so he thought, reassignment to China.

But he got stuck here. China's loss was the Philippines' gain.

Filipino citizen

From the 1950s to the early 1970s, Tritz taught at places like the Ateneo Graduate School of Arts and Sciences; Araneta University, where he was chaplain, guidance counselor and administrator; and such other institutions as the University of the East, Far Eastern University and Centro Escolar University.

In 1974, he joined 11 other Jesuits in taking the oath of allegiance as Filipino citizens before then President Ferdinand Marcos.

As he recounted to this writer with a laugh, the French government couldn't understand why he was doing this when thousands of Filipinos were renouncing their citizenship abroad.

But years later, the French government apparently forgave him. It twice gave him awards, including the Legion of Honor, for his work with Filipino children.

FATHER Tritz with Erda Tech board members Augusto de Leon, Prof. Teofilo Mejia and Susan Sulit, and school administrator Wilhelmina Martinez.

It was in 1974 when Tritz firmly focused on his life mission. Since the 1960s he had been increasingly disquieted by young students dropping out of grade school because of extreme poverty.

In those days, he saw that of those who started in first grade, 12-15 percent dropped out in second grade, and that the dropout rate got bigger in the higher grades. (Interestingly, the situation hasn't improved much since.)

Alarmed, Tritz and his first volunteer, Betty Reyes of the Aristocrat Restaurant family, went to the Juan Luna Elementary School in Sampaloc, got a list of the dropouts, and visited them in their homes. He convinced their parents to send them back to school by offering to sponsor their expenses.

With six such students, he began Erda in 1974.

In addition to its basic program of bringing kids back to the classroom and keeping potential dropouts in school, Erda runs various complementary programs.

These include pre-schools, livelihood development and income generation, health care, scholarships for secondary and tertiary education, and shelter and aid for Manila's street children and scavengers.

Two years ago President Macapagal-Arroyo donated P5 million for the livelihood program for young women aged 18-25.

On and on

"Pierre Tritz just went on and on, and the world has to make way for this man who knew where he was going," noted the Ateneo, which awarded him the St. Ignatius Award in 2000.

In 1978 he established the Foundation for the Assistance to Hansenites, to help lepers and their families. In 1995 he put up the Albert Schweitzer Association, a free legal assistance group for abandoned children, street kids, orphans and those arrested for crimes.

Tritz's inspiring work among the poor has not gone unnoticed, especially abroad. European TV has produced many documentaries on him, and various books have been written about him in France.

Corazon Aquino was once quoted as saying: "India has Mother Teresa, Egypt has Sister Emmanuelle, and the Philippines has Father Tritz."

He has won innumerable awards here, such as the Golden Heart Presidential Award from President Fidel Ramos in 1993, the Mother Teresa Award from the Jaycees, the Aurora Aragon-Quezon Peace Award for Education and the Congressional Medal of Merit from the House of Representatives.

Awards have also rained on him from abroad, such as the highest decoration from the German government and the Raoul Follereau Prize from the French Academy.

Tritz's fidelity to the Ignatian dictum of being "a man for others" is crystal-clear. Long may his life bear fruit.

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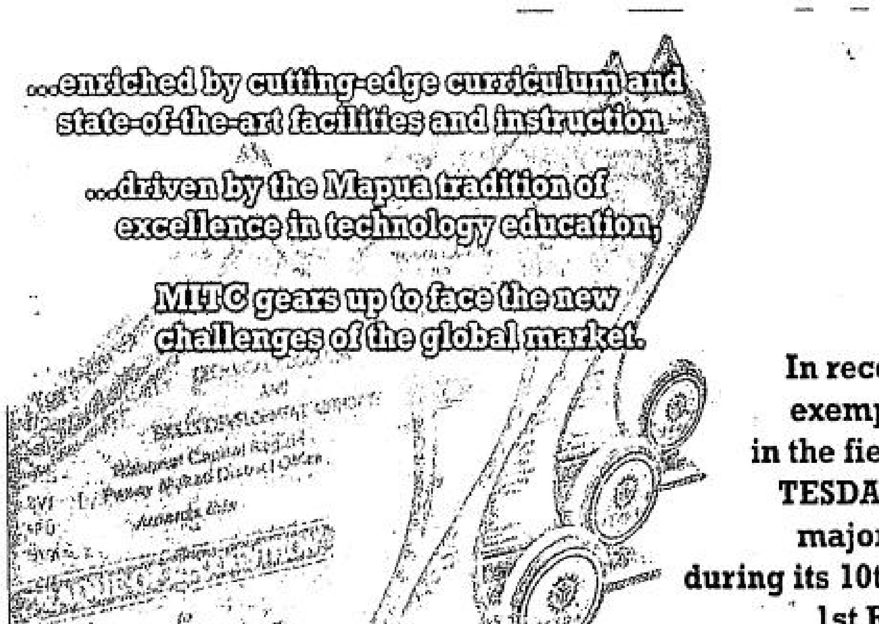

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Advocates say lethal injection not so painless

From page A1

Constitution's Eighth Amendment, which prohibits "cruel and unusual punishments inflicted."

Excruciating pain

Attorneys in at least a dozen of the 37 states that use lethal injection have filed lawsuits seeking to ban the procedure, which they say puts inmates through excruciating pain because the anesthetic wears off before the two other drugs are injected.

Prosecutors and victims rights advocates call the lawsuits "the appeal du jour."

"It is clear that no method would be acceptable to those who oppose capital punishment in principle," said Pete Adams, executive director of the Louisiana District Attorney's Association.

LETHAL injection bed: Not as painless as announced. EPA

"It should be remembered that anti-death penalty advocates see their cause as a long-term campaign to be waged on many fronts."

The most recent anti-death penalty action was brought in civil court in Kentucky. Earlier this year, New Jersey stopped lethal injections after an appeals court found insufficient medical knowledge to support the procedure.

The Kentucky case involves two convicted murderers, Thomas Clyde Bowling and Ralph Baze. Their lawyers argue that Bowling and Baze "will ... be tortured to death" if the state executes them by lethal injection.

A lethal injection is comprised of an anesthetic, a paralytic drug and potassium chloride, which causes cardiac arrest.

Pennsylvania state Representative Daylin Leach has proposed eliminating the paralytic drug from that state's lethal injection. Not using it may show whether inmates are unconscious when receiving potassium chloride or if they are awake and just unable to speak, Leach said. Someone squirming and screaming in pain as the lethal dose is administered could be enough to prompt states to refine the procedure, he said.

Paralyzed

"It seems to me that the only reason we are using it is to protect the aesthetic sensitivities of the witnesses to the execution," Leach said.

Carol Weihrer of Reston, Virginia, testified before the Pennsylvania lawmakers about how the anesthesia she was given for eye surgery didn't work, but the drug she was given to paralyze her did—meaning she couldn't alert her doctors that she was awake. She felt no pain from the cutting, because the painkilling portion was effective, but the tremendous pressure exerted to remove the eye was painful in its own way.

"It looked pretty boring," Weihrer said about a video of her surgery. "It was quite painful."

Death penalty proponents say they don't believe inmates feel pain during a lethal injection.

"Science does not support the rhetoric," said Dianne Clements, president of Justice For All, a Houston, Texas-based victim's rights group.

Wayne Uber, the director of the North Carolina victims assistance network, said the only pain prisoners may feel is temporary discomfort when the needle is inserted.

Humane

"Lethal injections, as they are currently performed in the United States, represent the most humanely possible means of executing a condemned murderer," Uber said.

Anesthesiologists and activists do not agree whether the initial anesthesia keeps an inmate unconscious throughout an execution.

Texas state Senator Kyle Janek, an anesthesiologist, said the amount of anesthesia given in lethal injections is 10 times more than the dosage given to a patient going into surgery. That dose basically guarantees the inmate is not awake as the other drugs are administered, Janek said in written testimony to a Pennsylvania legislative committee considering Leach's proposal.

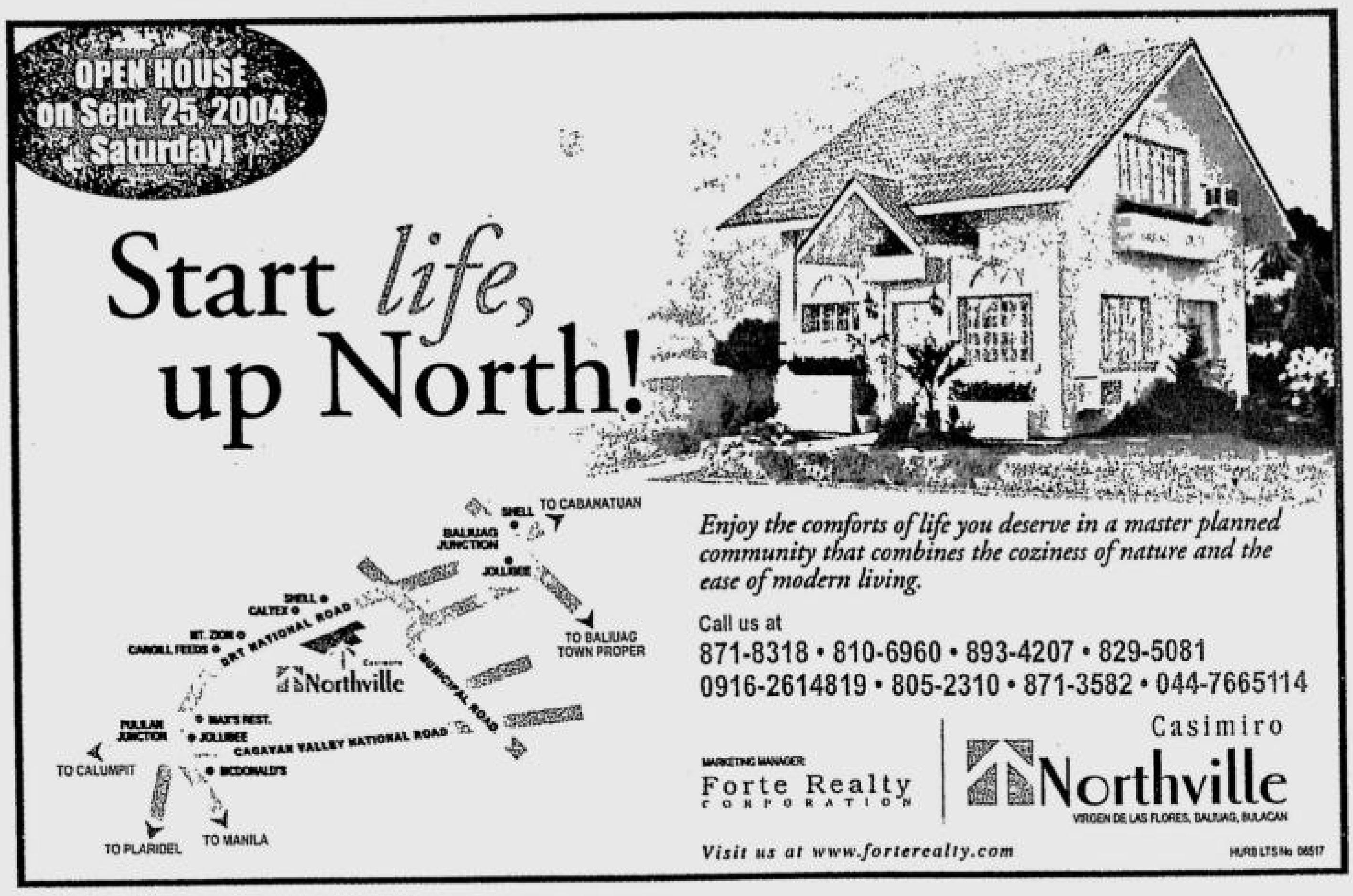
But Columbia University anesthesiologist Mark Heath said the paralyzing drug makes it impossible to know if the condemned inmate is feeling pain.

No guarantee

There is no national consensus on how much anesthesia to give an inmate and no way to guarantee the condemned stays unconscious throughout the procedure, said Heath, who testified with Weihrer before the Pennsylvania legislative committee.

In Kentucky, lethal injections will continue unless some proof of a problem arises, said Vicki Glass, a spokesperson for the state attorney general's office.

"The court should not prevent the implementation of the sentence imposed by the judge and jury," Glass said. AP



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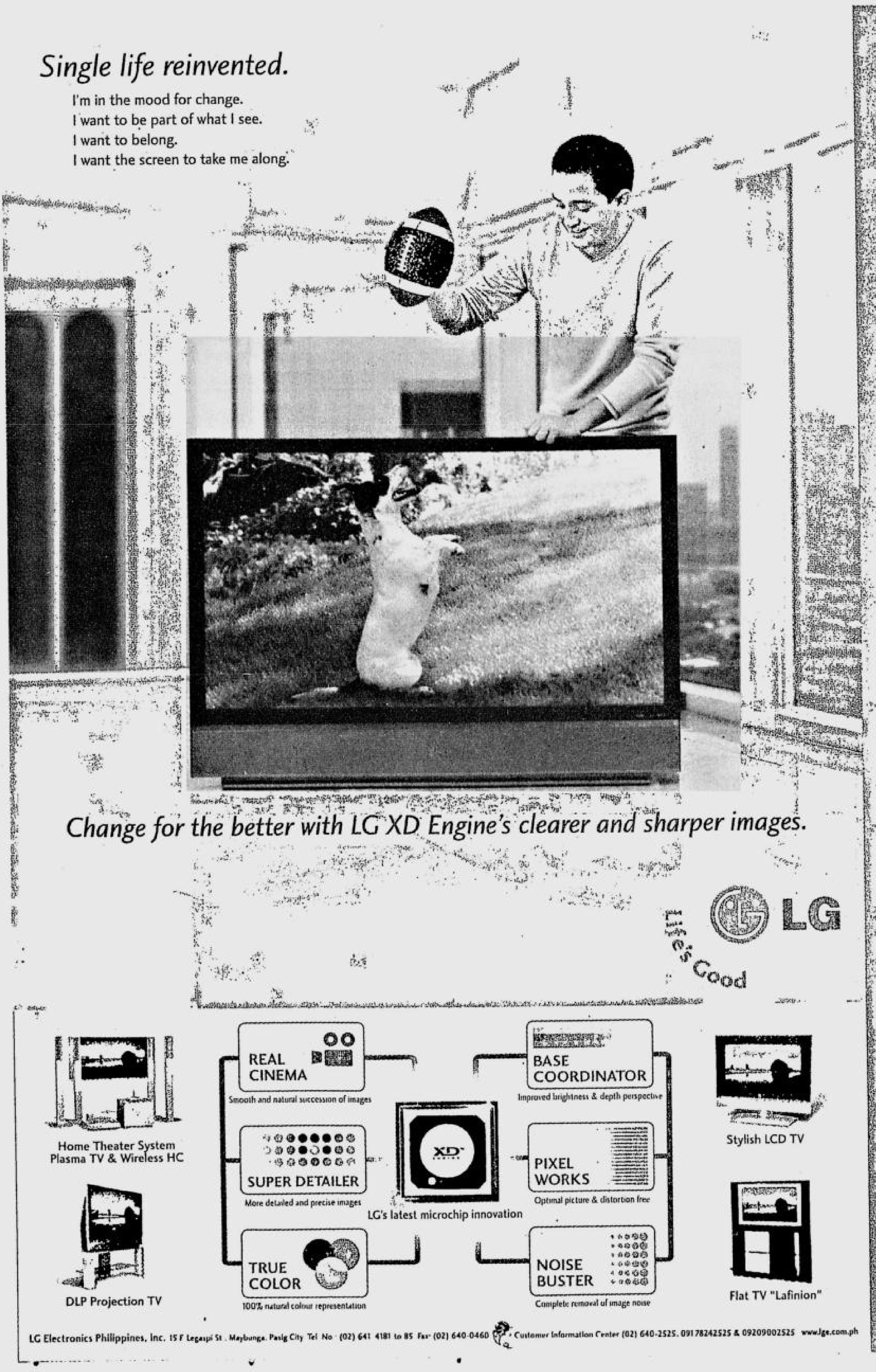

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QC folk welcome cleanup

By Tina G. Santos

RESIDENTS of an urban poor community in Quezon City could finally heave a sigh of relief after city officials cleared a waterway that has caused "flashfloods" in the community.

The residents claimed that the waterway serving as the boundary of Sitio Mendez, Barangay Bahay Toro, in District 1, and San Jose, Barangay Baesa in Ditrict 2 would usually overflow even at the slightest drizzle, forcing them to wade in murky floodwater.

Worse, the flood would remain for weeks.

"It has been making life very difficult for us," said housewife Aracelia Riteza, 45.

Their days of suffering could be finally over.

Various city government agencies, led by the Environmental Protection and Waste Management Department, initiated a cleanup drive that yielded a refrigerator, electric fan, boulders, old tires and other debris.

Now, the flood that haunted residents for years is gone.

COASTAL DRIVE ERIK ARAZAS

Hundreds of volunteers from the different branches of the local government, private sector and schools in Manila join hands in clearing the coast along the Manila Baywalk of garbage. It was Manila's contribution to the celebration of the International Coastal Cleanup Day.

Noli wants Islamic courts in NCR

By Philip C. Tubeza

VICE PRESIDENT Noli De Castro has asked Congress and the Supreme Court to establish a shari'a court in Metro Manila to address the legal problems of Muslims in the capital and nearby provinces.

Noting that shari'a courts were only established in Mindanao, De Castro said there was a need for a shari'a court in the capital region since Muslim communities were growing in Luzon.

"We are asking our friends and former colleagues in Congress and even in the Supreme Court to give attention to the legal needs of our Muslim brothers and sisters here in Luzon," De Castro said in a press statement.

Shari'a courts were established in some provinces in Mindanao where the Muslim Code on Personal Laws is enforced.

De Castro said he had written Senate President Franklin Drilon, Speaker Jose De Venecia and Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., and asked them to look into the matter.

He added that Congress should also consider passing legislation amending Presidential Decree 1083 in order to facilitate the creation of a shari'a court in Metro Manila.

"This would enable our Muslim brothers and sisters in the area to have an easier time securing documents needing the court's sanction. Also, the adjudication and settlement of disputes involving Muslims, not only in the metropolis but also the rest of Luzon, would be significantly enhanced," De Castro said.

There are currently in Mindanao five Shari'a District Courts, which are equivalent to the Regional Trial Courts in rank and four Shari'a Circuit Courts that have the rank and level of Municipal Circuit Trial Courts.

2 Manila Jail inmates die within 24 hours

By Leila B. Salaverria

TWO INMATES at the Manila City Jail died seven hours apart from apparently different causes on Friday and Saturday.

First to succumb to a reported illness was 37-year-old Agosto Azaña, who had been detained for a drug-related charge.

In a report, SPO1 Jacinto Amor said Azaña initially visited the jail's infirmary on Friday complaining of difficulty in breathing. He was given a medicine and returned to cell 8, where he had been detained.

At 10:30 p.m. on Friday, Azaña fell to the ground unconscious. He was rushed to the infirmary, whose staff members decided to bring him to the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center (JRMMC).

However, Azaña was declared dead on arrival at the hospital. Amor said the inmate had no sign of external physical injures.

Seven hours later, inmate Joel Euraba also died.

SPO3 Radito Perez said Euraba had initially complained of having trouble breathing and was advised to stay at the city jail's infirmary for observation. At 5:30 a.m., the inmate said he was having a hard time urinating.

He was also brought to the JRMMC, where he was also declared dead on arrival.

Teeners accuse village chair of shooting them

By Leila B. Salaverria

TWO TEENERS yesterday accused a barangay chair of attempted homicide after he shot at them while they were on their way home from a birthday party in Sampaloc, Manila.

One of the victims, 19-year-old Arjin Roslin, had a gunshot wound in the left arm. The other victim, a 17-year-old boy, was unhurt.

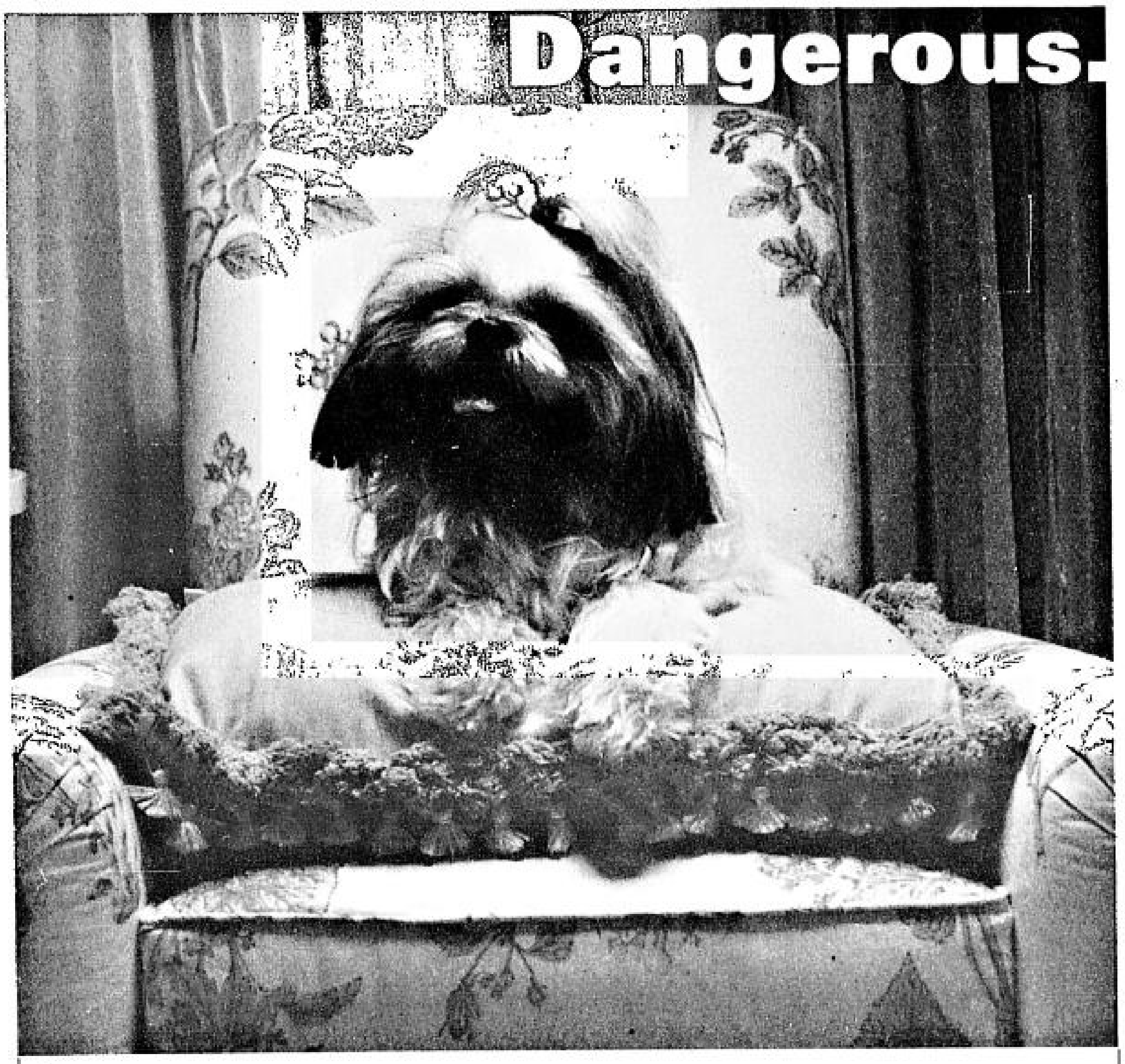
The two told police that they were attacked by Barangay 401 chair Arkie Rosales, who chanced upon them along Sulucan Street in Sampaloc at 2:30 a.m. yesterday.

Rosales, for his part, told police that he was just breaking up trouble in the area when he chased the two teeners.

He showed up at the Manila police headquarters yesterday upon knowing about the complaint filed against him.

Police said that the two complainants were on their way home yesterday when Rosales, armed with a long firearm, suddenly showed up in a pedicab.

The village chair accosted them but they ran off, reportedly prompting Rosales to open fire.



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The rainbow comes to earth as PUP begins celebrating its 100 years

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE RIZAL Park was a sea of colors yesterday as the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) made a bid to break the world record on the biggest human rainbow.

About 35,000 PUP students, teachers, staff and alumni flooded the grounds fronting the Quirino Grandstand as they took a shot at getting included in the Guinness Book of World Records.

The feat, school officials said, would be a fitting way to celebrate the centenary of PUP on Oct. 19, 2004.

And with the show of support that the school received yesterday, the university unofficially could have broken thrice over the record set by the Hong Kong Polytechnic University 2002 when it formed a human rainbow that had 11,273 members.

School officials are set to submit documentation of the record attempt to the headquarters of the Guinness for recognition. The school opted to do this because they would have had to spend for transportation and accommodation had they invited a Guinness Book representative to the event, said Dr. Theresa Atienza, one of the organizers.

But there is a more noble message in the activity.

"With this attempt, we want to show the whole world that people can be united toward a common goal for universal peace," organizer Dr. Victoria Naval told the INQUIRER yesterday.

She added that PUP was planning to send a letter to the United Nations, supporting its call for unity and cooperation to achieve peace.

Naval said the school chose to break the human rainbow record since a rainbow was a fitting symbol of harmony as shown by its different colors getting together to create something beautiful.

And the human rainbow was indeed beautiful.

The Luneta's grassy field was replaced by a multi-hued carpet of people clad in T-shirts and baseball caps colored red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet, the rainbow's colors.

Participants began arriving as early as 5 a.m., even before the sun rose. By 9 a.m., the celebration was in full swing, with multicolored confetti thrown into the air as the PUP community celebrated its accomplishment.

Later in the program, the human rainbow showed that not only was it colorful, but it also got rhythm.

The members of the human rainbow grooved to modern music in unison, eliciting the most applause, cheers and laughter when they performed the dance move to the popular novelty song "ocho-ocho."

Undoubtedly, the event, which the Manila City government and the tourism department helped organize, was a success. Naval said she and the other organizers had no difficulty at all convincing students, alumni and staff members to join it.

Man in wheelchair goes the distance

By Prosy B. Montesines
Contributor

ON A GOOD day, chances are you will see a man in a wheelchair negotiating an uphill slope on his way to Antipolo City with spectacular speed and skill. Spectacular because the vehicle is a manual wheelchair, and the helmsman, 24-year-old Jonas Madaros, is a polio victim.

The fellow is not putting on a show. The daring feat is just part of his daily regimen to improve his endurance and expertise in track and field games.

Undisputed champion

For five consecutive years now, Jonas has been the undisputed champion in the Rizal Invitational Wheelathon, sponsored by Matsushita Electric Philippines Corp. (MEPCO) and the local governments of Cainta, Taytay, Angono and Binangonan for handicapped athletes.

In December last year, Jonas won third place for the wheel track and field event at the 2nd ASEAN Para Games in Hanoi, Vietnam.

Now, he is setting his sights on the 3rd ASEAN Para Games in Manila next year, that will be sponsored jointly by the Philippine Sports Association for the Differently-Abled, Inc. and the Philippine Sports Commission.

Jonas had also been to Japan for wheel track exhibition games. His trip was sponsored by Caritas Manila, the Archdiocese of Manila's charity arm.

Also a craftsman

Every day, Jonas navigates Ortigas Avenue Extension on his way home to Antipolo from Tahanang Walang Hagdanan, Inc., a facility that provides livelihood skills to persons with disabilities in Cainta. Jonas works as a metal craftsman there.

Whenever he travels, he converts his lightweight everyday chair into a sports chair by attaching a single front wheel to provide support and accelerate its speed. The rear wheel disks are made from recycled plastic drum covers.

The daily exercise helps him both physically and psychologically. He says a few kilometers a day is good for his health as it enables him to discover better methods of breathing properly, sharpening his reflexes, and conserving and expending his energy.

It also helps him learn how to keep his mind and emotions in control while braving an often hostile outdoor environment.

Like pedestrians and cyclists, wheelchair users—a common sight in Cainta—are not easy to spot from a distance.

Usually, passing motor vehicles allow little clearance so that the rule should be to go on a straight line, and to avoid swerving.

One of Jonas' dreams, in fact, is to see the busy thoroughfares provided with bicycle and wheelchair lanes.

Jonas was 5 years old when he was stricken with paralytic polio, a viral disease that damages the nerves of the limbs.

Because his parents could not afford to bring him to a doctor, they resorted to "folk treatments" that included daily leg massages and walking exercises at sunrise.

When he was 12, his father would bring him twice a week to the beach near their house in Cavite to bury him up to his waist in the sand for about two hours, believing that the sand had healing properties.

As his legs continued to atrophy, Jonas learned to accept his fate and vowed to go on with life using a pair of crutches.

The death of his father and a family problem forced Jonas to leave home. For almost a year, he was a fixture at the Rizal Park, befriending other waifs like him as well as restaurant owners there for survival.

Discovering self esteem

A concerned American tourist took him to Tahanang Walang Hagdanan, where he became aware of things like self esteem, values, livelihood and leadership. After finishing intermediate school, he went into making wheelchairs and other mobility aids.

Today, the metal and woodcraft departments of Tahanan employ some 170 PWDs, most of whom are victims of polio and spinal cord injury.

Jonas now leads a fairly happy family life. His wife, Kathy, and their 2-year-old son, Jed Andrei, are both able-bodied. He sees to it that Baby Jed gets proper medical attention whenever he gets sick.

At the moment, he works doubly hard to be able to save money for a new wheelchair so he can use it for his training for the forthcoming ASEAN Para Games.

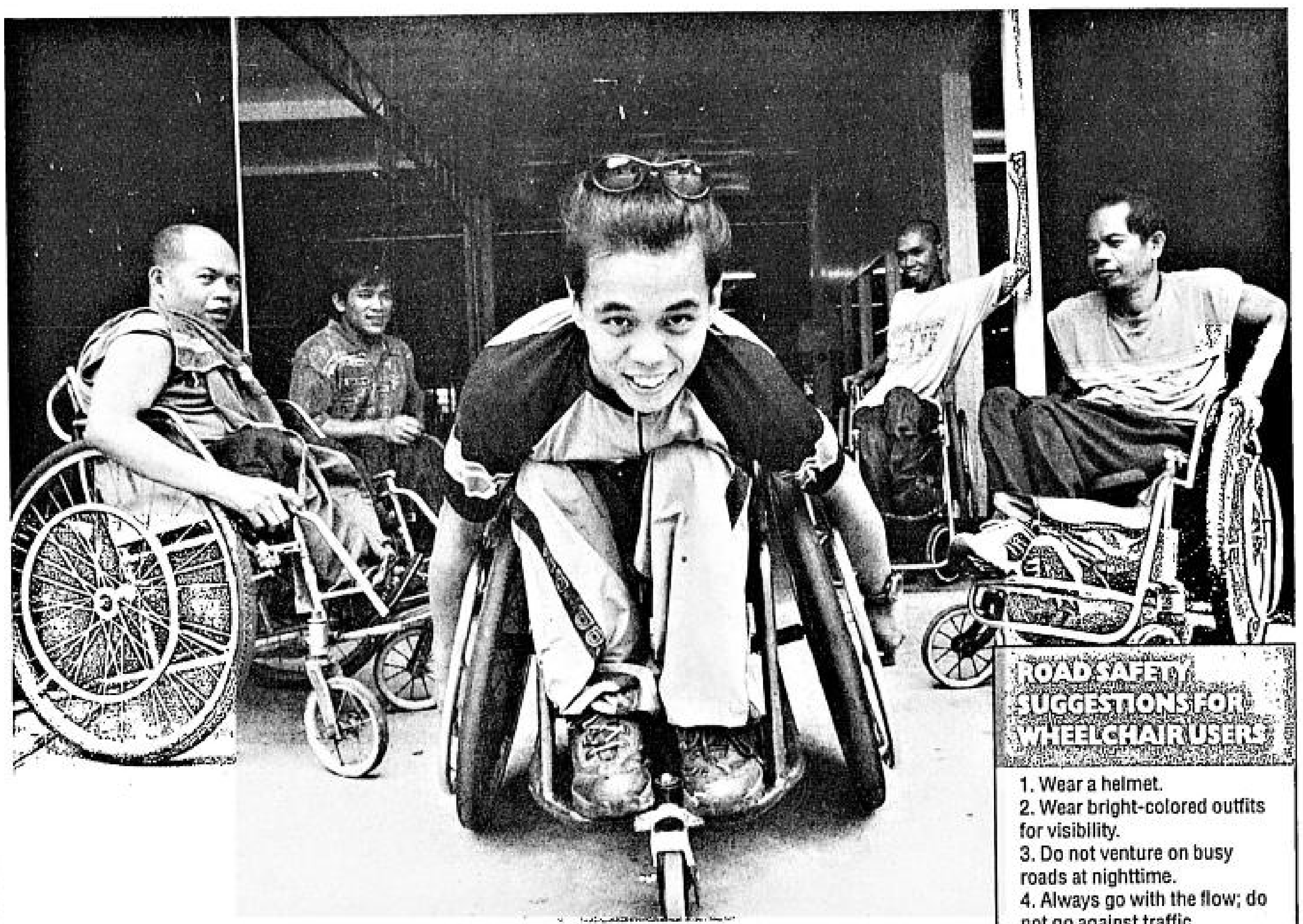
Antiquated 'wheels'

Normally, an athlete should have a new chair each year. By that standard, Jonas's 3-year-old chair is antiquated.

"I want to bring honor to my family, and of course to Tahanan and my country," he said.

It is amazing to see Jonas steering the hand rings of the rear wheels with his arms—his legs bound, and his trunk providing power.

While many able-bodied individuals wander about aimlessly, wasting their lives in the process, there are disabled persons like Jonas who choose to go the distance with hope and enthusiasm, stay on track and complete the journey.



RARING to go, Jonas Madaros shows the form of a winner as fellow men on wheels look on in this photo taken at the Tahanang Walang Hagdan (House Without Stairs) in Cainta, Rizal. Madaros, champion of the Rizal Invitational Wheelathon, gives good reason why people in wheelchairs are more aptly called "differently abled."

RAFFY LERMA

ROAD SAFETY SUGGESTIONS FOR WHEELCHAIR USERS

1. Wear a helmet.
2. Wear bright-colored outfits for visibility.
3. Do not venture on busy roads at nighttime.
4. Always go with the flow; do not go against traffic.
5. Always take the right lane and go on a straight line; avoid swerving.
6. Slow down when approaching driveways and intersections.
7. Equip your wheelchair with signal gadgets.
8. Watch for cracks on the road, potholes and drainage grates.
9. Learn the traffic rules and observe road courtesy
10. Stay alert at all times

Gas-saving device gets Taiwan nod

A FILIPINO invention that makers claim can save motorists up to half of their gasoline consumption has reportedly passed the standards of Taiwan.

In a three-page report, the Automotive Research and Testing Center of Changwa Hsien, Taiwan, gave a thumbs up to the Khaos Super Turbo Charger, its maker said in a statement.

The testing firm looked into the emission quality of Khaos, said Inventionhaus International Corp.

Khaos, which got its name from the Greek goddess of air, works by providing the right mix of air and gasoline to the car engine.

The device designed by jeepney driver-turned-inventor Pablo Planas was reportedly installed on the engine of a Mitsubishi Frecca (Adventure) whose carbon monoxide emission was given a grade of 1.0.

After the installation of Khaos, the Frecca's carbon monoxide emission grade fell to 0.1, Inventionhaus said.

The firm said it would start selling to China soon.

RETURN OF TONDO ICON
Tondo residents commemorated recently the return of the image of Santo Niño after it was stolen in the 1970's. Sen. Manny Villar, who grew up in Tondo, joins the celebration

Law catches up with errant CIDG cop

By Tina G. Santos

A MEMBER of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group is in hot water after he was arrested for allegedly mulcting from two vendors in Valenzuela City.

The suspect was identified as PO3 Alfredo Bautista, 34, of Bagong Nayon 2, Antipolo City, and assigned at the Northern Police District-CIDG.

Mergil Madelo, 25, and Cindy Aragon, 34, both of B. Cuadra Street, Bisig ng Nayon, Valenzuela City, accused Bautista of demanding P1,500 from them.

The two, who sold video compact discs, also claimed that the lawman asked for P100 weekly protection money.

Rizal Medical Center loses needed hands

By Luige A. del Puerto

FOUR months.

That is how long the Rizal Medical Center, a government-run hospital, has not paid 24 utility workers whom it dismissed.

Eight of the workers sought the help of the media this week after promises to pay them remained unfulfilled.

"We just want to get what is due us," said Glenn Agustin, 27.

Acting as his group's spokesperson, Agustin added, "The truth is, we don't know where else to go or what else to do."

The dismissal came without warning, according to the workers. When they reported for duty on Sept. 1, they were told their jobs no longer existed.

Looking to payday

The contractual workers were hired as aides early this year. They carried patients, cleaned rooms or assisted women in labor.

It was not easy, they said, but at least there was the salary to look forward to come payday. Several of them had worked at the hospital for years; one did so for eight years.

But in May up to August, payday stopped coming.

The problem began when the Civil Service Commission (CSC) questioned the legality of their hiring, according to Dr. Buddy Ortego, administrative officer 5.

Wrong job

The hospital originally hired 50 workers through the Fast Janitorial Agency. However, they were given jobs as aides and not as janitors.

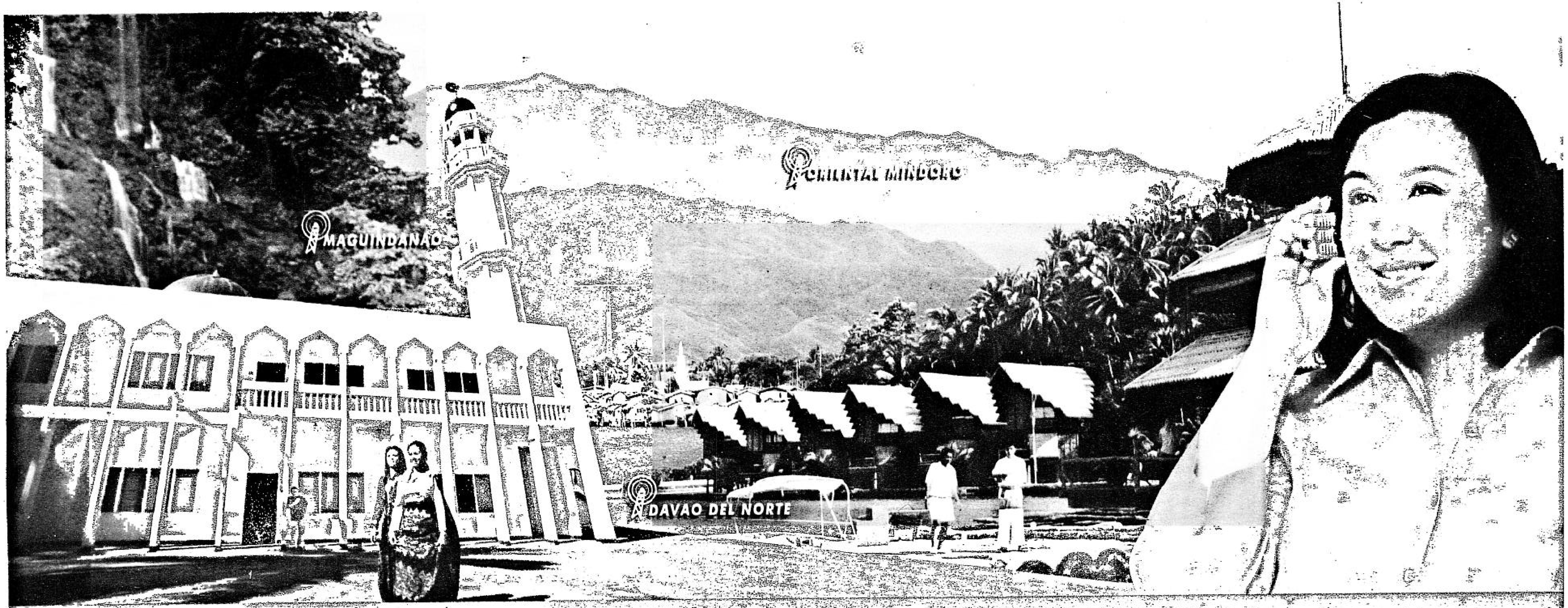
"(That move) was considered illegal," Ortego said. "So, we directly hired 24 of them as contractual workers."

The workers were supposed to draw their salary from the hospital's miscellaneous and other operating expenses (MOEE), but a disagreement erupted between hospital accounting and administrative officials whether this was legal.

As officials tried to determine what to do, the workers' salaries stopped coming.

In August, they decided to just terminate the workers and give their unpaid salaries, which run up to around P575,000.

Ortego expressed hope that it would be released by Friday.



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Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres

SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Mangulat

BOXING: Quest for History; 10 a.m.; Solar Sports (r-7:30 p.m.) and RPN 9 (r-9 p.m.)—Oscar De La Hoya and Bernard Hopkins collide for the undisputed middleweight crown while Juan Manuel Marquez takes on Orlando Saludo in the featherweight division.

GOLF: Ryder Cup 2004; 8 p.m.; Sports Plus—The best of the US tangles with Europe's finest in this golf special.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

Archers eye Finals vs Eagles

By Jasmine W. Payo

COACH Sandy Arespacochaga knows this could be the Ateneo Eagles' last game of the season. But an exit dealt by their arch rivals, the De La Salle Archers, is certainly the least they want.

"I'm sure La Salle will be out to end our season. We really have to work harder and prepare better. La Salle won't give us the win, so we really have to earn it," said Arespacochaga.

The Eagles will try to extend the semifinal series against the Archers, who will shoot for the remaining Finals berth today when they clash in the UAAP varsity basketball tournament at the Araneta Coliseum.

GAMES TODAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)
2 p.m.—Ateneo vs UP (Jrs)
4 p.m.—Ateneo vs La Salle (Srs)

The fourth meeting this season between the league's fiercest rivals is set at 4 p.m. with the Eagles, down 1-2 in their personal duel with the Archers, hoping to forge a winner-take-all showdown for the second title slot on Sunday.

Defending champion Far Eastern Tamaraws had already booked the first Finals slot after disposing of the University of the East Warriors, 71-64, last Thursday.

Ateneo and La Salle finished the eliminations tied with 10-4 records. But the Archers claimed the No. 2 spot and the twice-to-beat advantage after routing the Eagles, 82-69, in their playoff match last Tuesday.

But it's a rout that has no bearing now for La Salle coach Franz Pumaren. "It's still a long way. Ateneo is such a good team, they're capable of coming back. They have time to adjust and rest, get their energy back," said Pumaren, whose Archers are gunning for their 10th Finals appearance in 11 years.

La Salle remains hot with its seven-game winning streak, tying Ateneo's record in the first round. But Ateneo has gone frigid since then, and is now coming off its first back-to-back losses of the season.

ARCHERS/ A26

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Rosales fires 67 on b-day

By Jong Arcano

RETURNING to action after another sudden withdrawal last week, Jenny Rosales celebrated her 26th birthday Friday with a sizzling five-under-par 67 in the rain-marred opening round of the Safeway Classic at the Columbia Edgewater Country Club in Portland, Oregon.

Rosales, who fell ill and had to withdraw for the fourth time this season in the John Q. Hammons Hotel Classic, spiked her round with five birdies and an eagle on the seventh hole to put herself in a three-way tie for second place, just a stroke behind Tour rookie Brandi Jackson.

J-Ro actually notched her second best ever start in the LPGA since posting a 66 to lead the first round of the McDonald's Championship last June.

And she could have made it a bigger celebration for herself until a weather disruption got in the way.

She was already five under after hitting a third consecutive birdie on the 16th. But the siren sounded as cracks of thunder followed a heavy downpour in late afternoon and Rosales had to wait for an hour and 28 minutes before she resumed play.

Rosales completed her round with two pars and later rued the delay.

"My feel was gone," she said.

There were still 32 players on the course when play was called but the lowest score of those who didn't finish was 2 under.

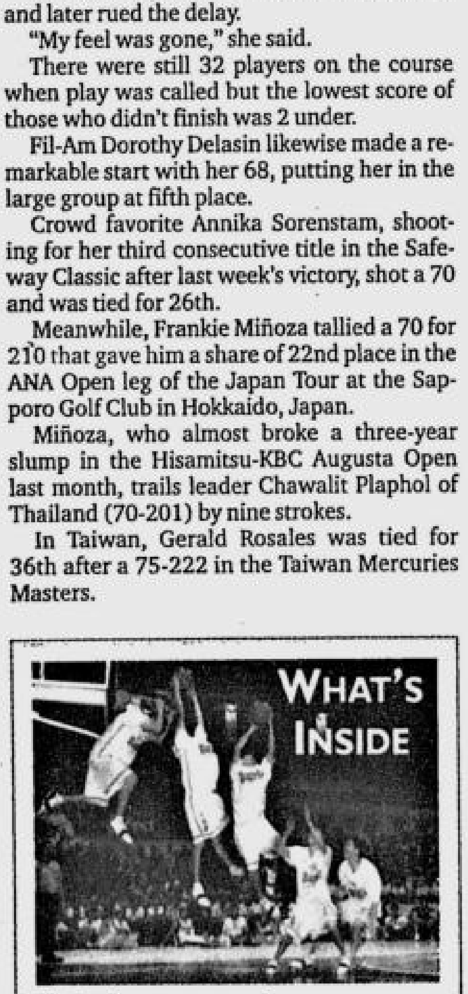
Fil-Am Dorothy Delasin likewise made a remarkable start with her 68, putting her in the large group at fifth place.

Crowd favorite Annika Sorenstam, shooting for her third consecutive title in the Safeway Classic after last week's victory, shot a 70 and was tied for 26th.

Meanwhile, Frankie Miñoza tallied a 70 for 210 that gave him a share of 22nd place in the ANA Open leg of the Japan Tour at the Sapporo Golf Club in Hokkaido, Japan.

Miñoza, who almost broke a three-year slump in the Hisamitsu-KBC Augusta Open last month, trails leader Chawalit Plaphol of Thailand (70-201) by nine strokes.

In Taiwan, Gerald Rosales was tied for 36th after a 75-222 in the Taiwan Mercuries Masters.



■ Asian super league mulled by PBA, KBL /A26

■ Europe mocks dream US pair /A28

■ Hoya vs Hopkins: Everything at stake /A28

■ Peñalosa vs Thai in Cebu /A30

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UA&P, Centro Escolar target WNCAA semis

NEOPHYTES University of Asia & the Pacific and Centro Escolar University take a crack at the WNCAA 35th season semifinals today.

UA&P plays its final elimination game against Siena College of Quezon City in the 3 p.m. seniors volleyball match at the RTU gym, hoping to gain at least a tie for the fourth and last semis slot.

University of the Assumption-Pampanga, meanwhile, eyes a sweep of the elims and a twice-to-beat edge in the crossover semis when it tackles defending champion Lyceum of the Philippines at 1:30 p.m.

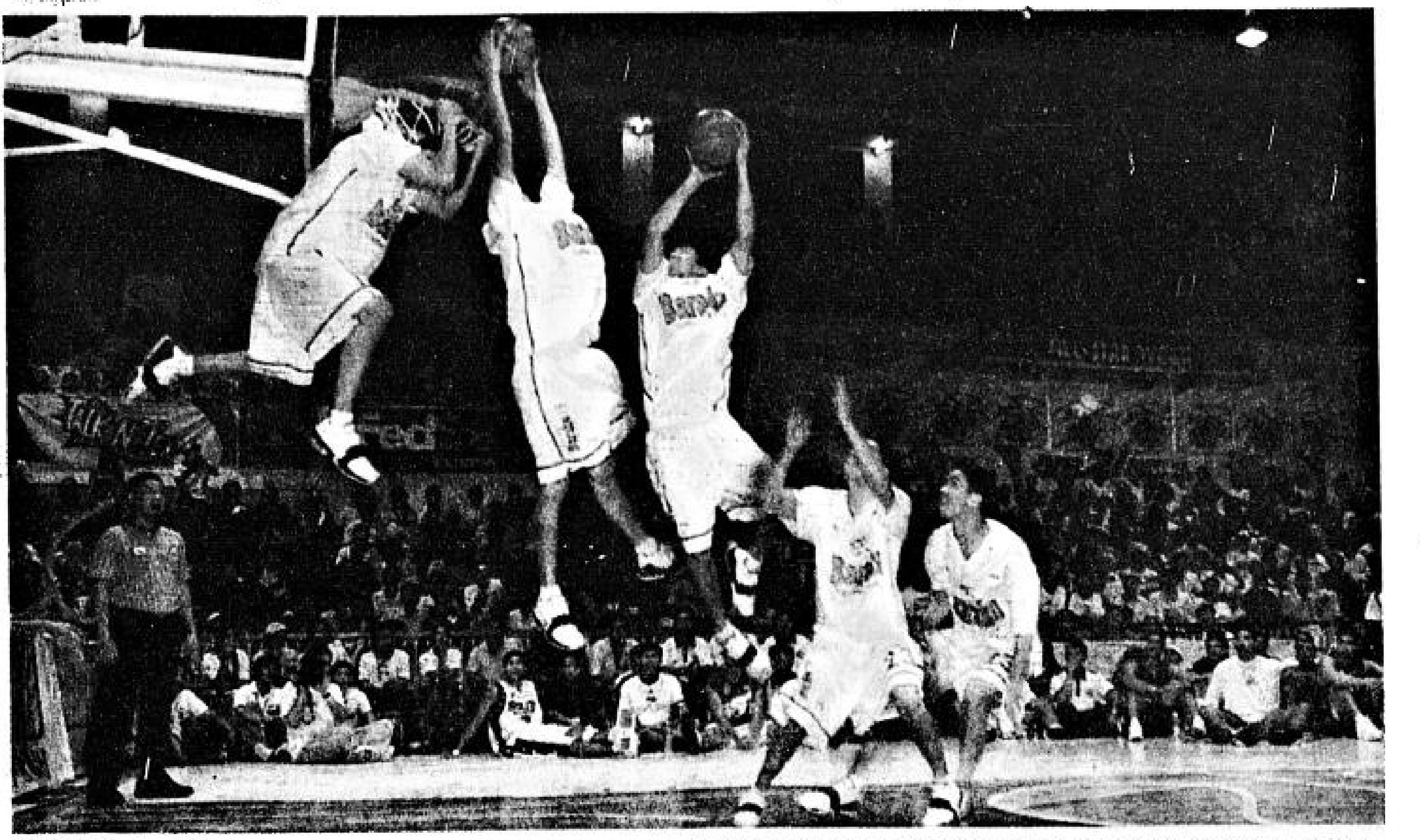
In basketball at the St. Scholastica gym, CEU will have to deal with multititled Lyceum of the Philippines at 2 p.m., with a win moving it to second place at 6-1.

On the other hand, a victory by Lyceum would tie it with idle Rizal Technological University for the lead at 6-0.

Three other squads with four wins each led by reigning titlist College of St. Benilde still have chances to enter the cage semis.

The WNCAA 35th season is co-presented by Kotex and sponsored by adidas, The Philippine Star, RPN-9, Monster Radio RX 93.1, Pantene and Café Lupe.

In juniors basketball, De La Salle Zobel goes for a fifth win at 11 a.m. against winless Siena College of Quezon City. At the EAC gym, RTU plays Miriam College at 2:30 p.m.



CYRUS Baguio of Red Bull Barako executes a two hand reverse slam after bouncing off the ball in this composite photo during the 2004 Slam Dunk Contest in the PBA All-Star Week at the Cebu Coliseum last month.

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Asian super league mulled by PBA, KBL

By June Navarro

THE PHILIPPINE Basketball Association laid down the foundation for the creation of an Asian super league after forging a partnership with the Korean Basketball League yesterday.

This came after PBA Chair Buddy Encarnado and commissioner Noli Eala signed a joint agreement with their Korean counterparts Tae Soo Jung (KBL president) and KBL vice commissioner Hee Young You to strengthen the ties between the pro leagues.

The agreement aims to set the stage for the formation of a league where the top basketball countries in Asia are expected to compete.

"Hopefully, we could encourage Japan and China in the future. The idea of an Asian league is enticing so we didn't think twice in forging a partnership with the PBA," said You through an interpreter.

The KBL has brought in two of its teams now competing in a series of goodwill games against the PBA clubs except Purefoods and Red Bull.

The SK Telecom Knights have already absorbed back-to-back defeats against Sta. Lucia Realty and Coca-Cola while the SBS Kings-FedEx tussle was stopped due to a slippery floor Friday night.

"It is with great honor for the PBA to embark on a working relationship with KBL. We hope that it will be the start of something big as far as basketball in the region is concerned," said Encarnado.

Besides coming up with a long-range plan to unify the four basketball-loving nations under one league, the KBL and the PBA are hoping to learn from each other through more exhibition games.

You also brought up the possibility of swapping the PBA referees with some of their technical officials to further develop the officiating of both leagues.

"We hired a couple of NBA and USBL referees but they didn't meet our expectations. With the PBA, we could learn more because they know the Asian style of play," said You.

Eala had broached the concept of a tri-nation meet among Korea, Australia and the Philippines several months ago. By joining hands with the KBL, the PBA has taken a major step in making Eala's dream a reality.

Asked if Korea has already formed a national team for the ABC championships next year and the 2006 Asian Games in Qatar, You said the Korean squad would begin its preparations after the KBL season in April.

Meanwhile, Basketball Association of the Philippines secretary-general Graham Lim has informed Eala of the BAP's sincerity in pooling its resources with the PBA for the sake of the national team.

Gin Kings All-Filipino favorites

GINEBRA finally became the bride. Its head coach finally became a groom. And after a frenzied celebration of what passed as their happiest off-season thus far, it is finally time to get serious.

The Kings head into the new Philippine Basketball Association season no longer wrapped in the veil of underachievement but as one of the heavy favorites to rule the All-Filipino Cup.

"It's going to be tough but we know how nice it is to win a championship so we will try to win another one," said coach Siot Tanquingcen, who recently tied the knot.

The Kings are coming off a title conquest in the Fiesta Conference, knocking off the heavily favored Red Bull Barakos in six games to end a seven-year drought. The only other time Ginebra reached the finals was when it notched a bridesmaid finish to San Miguel Beer's All-Filipino triumph in 2001.

That win, made historic by the high ratings posted by new coverer ABC-5, gave Ginebra a newfound confidence.

To prepare for the new season, several teams pulled off deals to fortify their rosters; some of them as blockbuster as the one that saw Vergel Meneses take his bags to Red Bull.

But the Kings made the biggest move. Amid the flurry of activity, they sat still.

"We would like to win with these guys," Tanquingcen said.

BLAZE CHAMP

Joey Galang (right) of MOH Speed receives the trophy and cash prize from Danny Mappala of Activity Asia Association after winning the Quick 8 class during the 2nd leg of the 2004 Petron Blaze Shootout National Drag Race Championship series held at Clark Ecozone in Pampanga.

Rotary holds 9th Asean golf Nov. 7

THE ROTARY Golfing Fellowship Foundation of the Philippines Inc. will hold its ninth Asean tournament on Nov. 7-11 in Shanghai.

The tourney provides Rotarians and their guests the chance to play and at the same time promote brotherhood and camaraderie.

Previous Asean golf competitions were held in Guam, Thailand (Bangkok, Phuket, Pattaya, Chiang Mai), Malaysia, China, Hong Kong and Vietnam.

For details, contact the secretariat at 7218896 and 7210564, fax nos. 7218896 and 7215940 or email rgffp@yahoo.com and look for either Pauline Sevilla, Leah Grubat or Annie Mejorada.

Draws decide chess opener

TAGAYTAY CITY—Brothers-in-law International Master Jayson Gonzales and FIDE Master Jesse Noel Sales agreed to a quick draw at the start of the National Chess Championship yesterday at the Tagaytay International Convention Center here.

Gonzales and Sales split the point after 15 moves of their Slav Defense encounter.

National Masters Roland Joseph Perez and Rolando Nolte also settled for a truce after 25 moves of an English Opening.

The event's first big upset happened in the women's draw after untitled Daisy Rivera bested top seed WIM Beverly Mendoza.

The other men's games were ongoing at presstime.

Marlon Bernardino

Archers . . .

From page A25

The Eagles closed the eliminations with a 65-51 beating from FEU before dropping their playoff match against the Archers. The two straight lackluster performances greatly concern Arespacochaga.

"Overall, we have to play better defense. That's what we used to do well, we play team defense. Our intensity also has to be more consistent. Some are intense, some are not. That's something we have to address also," he said.

"This is what I've been trying to train my team for, to play big in crucial parts of the games. I think both teams are physically in good shape. So at this stage of the tournament, it's all mental," said Pumaren.

SBP CHAMPION

The Ateneo Blue Eaglets emerged Milo Best SBP champion this year: Front (sitting): Martin Garcia, Gabby Mesina, Aji Oppus, Paolo Quiogue, Lambert Tenorio, Anjo Ladaban and Anton Asistio. Back (standing): Coach Marc Bautista, Johannes Chavez, Chuckie Dumrique, Martin Pascual, Zester Hernandez, Von Pessumal, Sam Wijanco, Josh Gadia, Paolo Avecilla, and assistant coach Dondi Peleo.

AIMS cagers grab No. 2 slot

ASIAN Institute of Maritime Studies outsteadied Philippine State College of Aeronautics, 77-76, for its fifth win in six starts that enabled it to grab the No. 2 spot in the semifinals of the 3rd Philippine Schools, Colleges and Universities Athletic Association basketball championship at the PMMS-Las Piñas Gym recently.

AIMS, which finished second behind league-leading Bulacan State University (6-0), and the Pasay City-based Philsca, which dropped to 4-2, squares off again in the crossover semifinal, which will resume early next month.

The BSU Gold Gear, which downed Eulogio Amang Rodriguez Institute of Science and Technology (EARIST), 92-70, took the No. 1 spot and will face No. 4 Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Pasig (3-3) in their own semifinal knockout game.

Anthony Carrasco topscored with 19 points and Al-Fidzky Dais added 15 for the Blue Sharks of AIMS, while Randy Leones had 21 for Philsca.

In the other men's game, Philippine Merchant Marine School-Las Piñas outplayed Technological University of the Philippines-Taguig, 79-64, to close its campaign with a 1-5 mark in a three-way tie with EARIST and TUP-Taguig.

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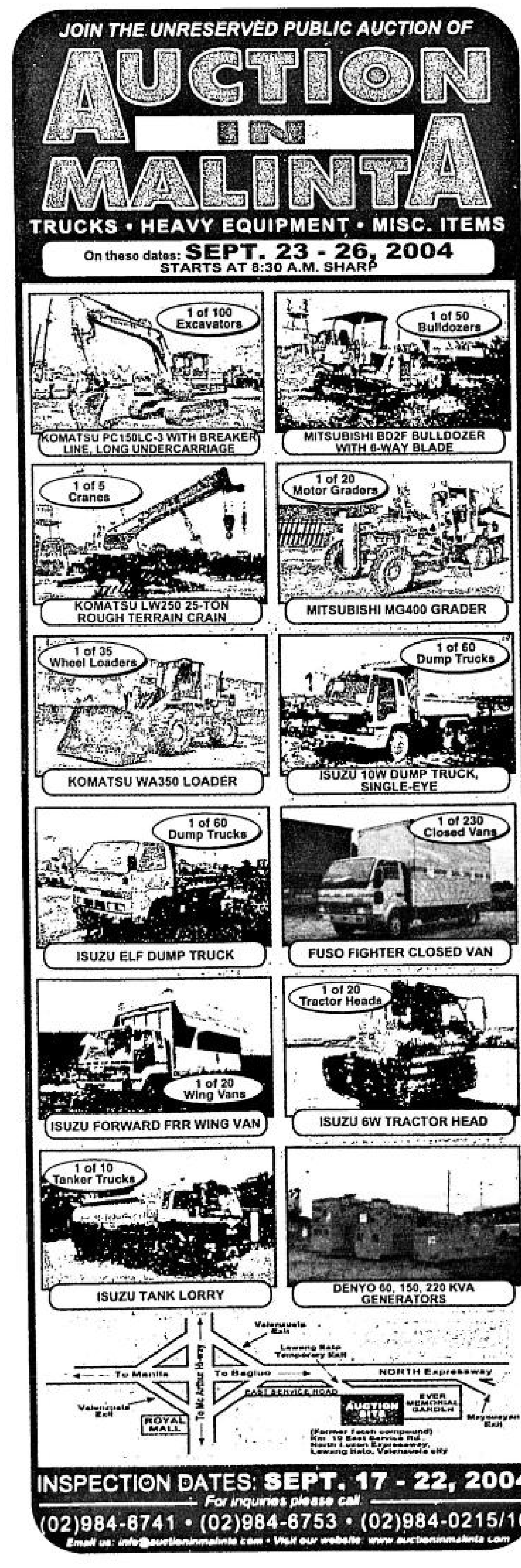

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Pacto leads cast in Ideal pro-am

PACTOLERIN PDI PHOTO

TWENTY - players, including eight Japanese amateurs and 11 Filipino pros led by former Philippine Open champion Robert Pactolerin, see action tomorrow in the 54-hole, P265,000 first Ideal Travel and Tours Invitational golf tournament.

To be played in three different venues, the unsanctioned, unofficial PGAP event offers P55,000 to the professional winner and handsomely crafted trophies to the top amateur players in three divisions.

Tetsuo Ochi, Jun Ijima, Hiroshi Odaira, Nobuhiko Nirei, Shin Saito, Toshikazu Kimisima, Yashuo Takato and Zempei Katayama will arrive from Japan today with Teresa Arevalo joining them in the amateur tournament.

The Japanese players are in one way or another connected with the sponsoring Ideal Travel and Tours, a young corporation in the country that specializes in booking watercraft rentals and island-hopping tours.

The field plays The Riviera's challenging Langer course tomorrow before teeing off at the Club Malarayat Tuesday and Southwoods on Wednesday.

King of the Road gets boost

THE EIGHTH annual staging of the adidas King of the Road race slated on Oct. 3 gets a big boost with the participation of Globe Gentxt as co-presenter.

The event, which is expected to attract 2,000 runners, is open to all physically fit males and females 9 years old and above.

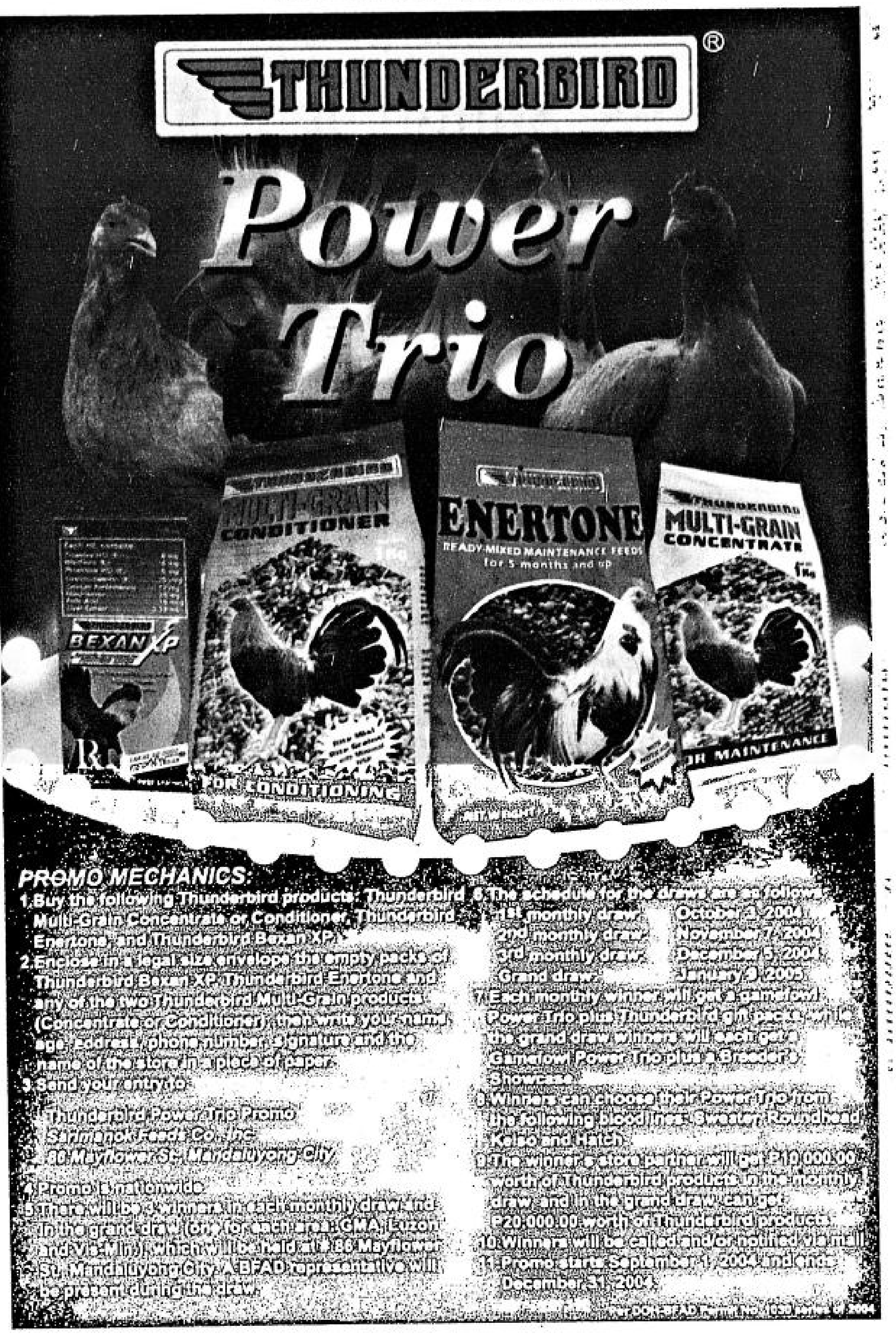
Last year, Alex Quisay and Lisa Yambao topped their respective events that also featured awards for the best dressed and best costumed individual and running group.

Overall champion and the top female finisher will receive a P10,000 cash developmental award and a P10,000 gift certificate plus trophy and special gift packs from all the KOTR sponsors. In the team competition, first place will be awarded a P20,000 adidas gift certificate, second place, P15,000 and the third place will get P10,000.

Registration starts today at the ground floor of the Vasquez Madrigal Plaza Bldg. at 51 Annapolis St. in Greenhills, San Juan. Registration fee is P200, inclusive of a running singlet and a carbo loading dinner on Oct. 1 at the adidas Sports Kamp at the Bonifacio Global City in Taguig.

All entries must bring their race numbers for identification during the carbo loading night on Oct. 1. All finishers will receive certificates of completion.

Registration hours is from 8:30 to 5 p.m. Monday to Saturday and 9 a.m. to 12 noon on Sunday. Registration deadline is on Sept. 29.



PROMO MECHANICS:

1. Buy the following Thunderbird products: Thunderbird Multi-Grain Concentrate or Conditioner, Thunderbird Enertone, and Thunderbird Bexan XP.
2. Enclose in a legal size envelope the empty packs of Thunderbird Bexan XP, Thunderbird Enertone and any of the two Thunderbird Multi-Grain products (Concentrate or Conditioner), then write your name, age, address, phone number, signature and the name of the store in a piece of paper.
3. Send your entry to:

Thunderbird Power Trio Promo
Sarimanok Feeds Co., Inc.
86 Mayflower St., Mandaluyong City

4. Promo is nationwide.
5. There will be 3 winners in each monthly draw and in the grand draw (one for each area: GMA, Luzon and Vis-Min), which will be held at # 86 Mayflower St., Mandaluyong City. A BFAD representative will be present during the draw.
6. The schedule for the draws are as follows:

1st monthly draw	October 3, 2004
2nd monthly draw	November 7, 2004
3rd monthly draw	December 5, 2004
Grand draw	January 9, 2005

7. Each monthly winner will get a gamefowl Power Trio plus Thunderbird gift packs, while the grand draw winners will each get a Gamefowl Power Trio plus a Breeder's Showcase.
8. Winners can choose their Power Trio from the following bloodlines: Sweater, Roundhead, Kelso and Hatch.
9. The winner's store partner will get P10,000.00 worth of Thunderbird products in the monthly draw and in the grand draw can get P20,000.00 worth of Thunderbird products.
10. Winners will be called and/or notified via mail.
11. Promo starts September 1, 2004 and ends December 31, 2004.

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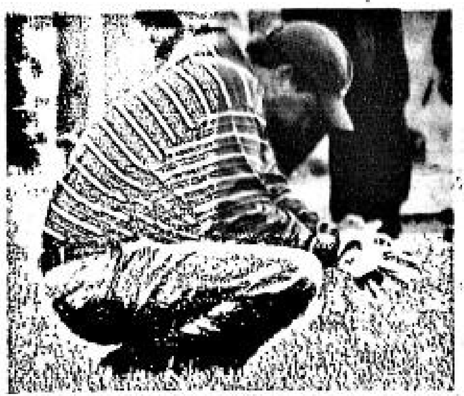
After loss, Sutton benches Mickelson



AFTER a poor performance, Phil Mickelson will be reduced to a cheerleader. AP

BLOOMFIELD HILLS, Michigan—Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson produced the impressive start United States captain Hal Sutton was seeking at the 35th Ryder Cup.

Unfortunately for the Americans, the dysfunctional duo helped give the European team the greatest first-day lead in Ryder Cup history.

"Who would have seen that coming?" Sutton said. "I felt like the world wanted to see them together. We gave it a good shot. We're going to have to move on."

Not only did Sutton break up fourth-ranked Mickelson and second-ranked Woods, who will play four-ball with Chris Riley against Clarke and England's Ian Poulter, but he benched Mickelson entirely.

"Phil did not play very well this afternoon," Sutton said. "I just felt it was the thing to do."

Mickelson was forced to play after not practicing on the course for two days so he could work in secret on playing the same ball that Woods uses. How great a factor those handicaps were was a question Sutton could not answer.

"We'll all be left scratching our heads over that," Sutton said. "But the most important person who has to wonder about that is Phil Mickelson.

"It's not going to cause us any grief in the morning because he's going to be cheering instead of playing."

Breaking up the duo was simply making the best of a bad situation.

"If they split them up they look (like) idiots," France's Thomas Levet said. "If they don't split them up they still look (like) idiots." *AFP*

Bonds smacks 700th home run, enters major league's elite circle

SAN FRANCISCO—Barry Bonds joined Hank Aaron and Babe Ruth as the only major league baseball players with 700 home runs here on Friday with an opposite-field blast in the bottom of the third inning of San Francisco's game against San Diego.

The San Francisco superstar was hit by a pitch in his first at bat. But the crowd of 42,526 got what they came for in the third, when he sent an 0-1 pitch from San Diego's Jake Peavy over the wall in left-center field and into the second row of seats.

"You can't really put into words what it means," Bonds said of joining a class that includes only Aaron and Ruth. "I don't really know what to say about that right now."

Many of Bonds' recent milestone home runs have come at the Giants' home park.

The left-handed slugger has hit dozens of homers beyond the right field wall and into San Francisco's China Basin Channel, where McCovey Cove is named for former Giants great Willie McCovey.

Bonds hit Nos. 500 and 521—tying McCovey—into the cove. Career homer No. 600 in 2002, along with 660 and 661 in April to tie and pass godfather Willie Mays for third place on the all-time list, also came here at SBC Park.

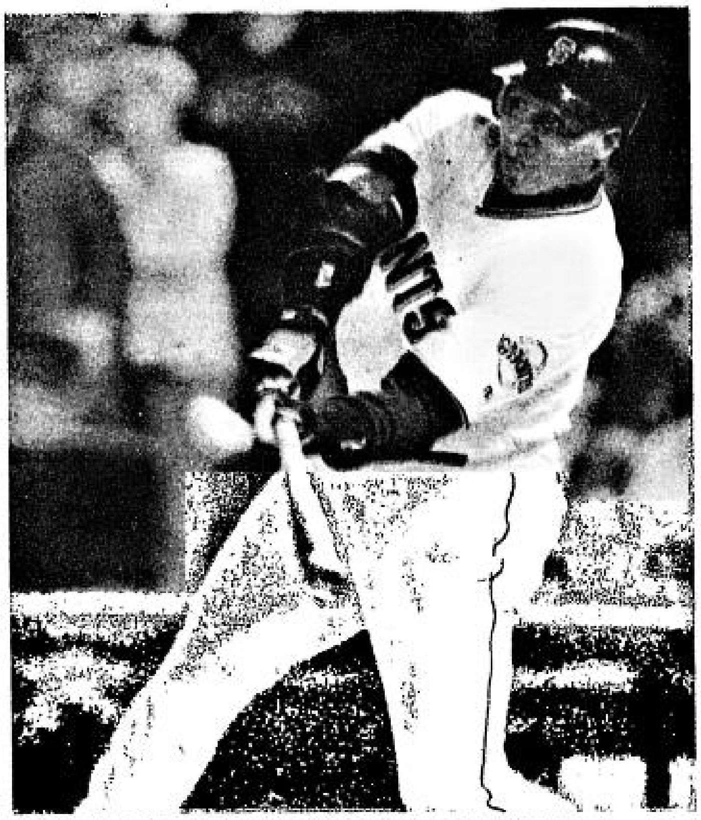
The usual flotilla of fans in small boats and kayaks crowded the cove hoping to catch a piece of baseball history. Instead, Bonds ignited a scramble in the bleachers.

Steven Williams, a 25-year-old fan, emerged from the scrum with the ball.

Bonds said: "Once it got up there, I pretty much knew it had a chance to get out. I was just hoping no one got hurt."

Friday's game was the first of a nine-game homestand. Bonds did not homer in a three-game series at Milwaukee that ended Thursday after hitting No. 699 in his final at-bat Sunday against Arizona.

It was Bonds' third career homer off Peavy and his 42nd home run of the season. His historic homer helped the Giants to a 4-1 victory as they held on to a one-half game lead over the Chicago Cubs in the race for the National League wild card. *AFP*



SAN FRANCISCO Giants' Barry Bonds slams his 700th home run. AP

RYDER CUP

Europe m US pair fo

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP, Michigan—Europe matched the largest first-day lead in Ryder Cup history at 6 1/2 to 1 1/2 and the dream pair of Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson failed to contribute to the stunned Americans on Friday.

Most of the 38,000 fans at Oakland Hills sat in stunned silence watching Colin Montgomerie & Co. build their lead without too much effort.

"I don't think we surprised ourselves," Padraig Harrington said. "That's what we set out to do."

Montgomerie and Harrington were the ones who set the tone, making four straight birdies to start their opening better-ball match. They never trailed against Woods and Mickelson—the American "Dream Team" playing together for the first time in the Ryder Cup—and won 2 and 1.

"Psychologically, it was almost worth two points to us," Montgomerie said.

Europe didn't need the extra point. It had Lee Westwood, Sergio Garcia and Darren Clarke also winning both their matches and again grabbing early momentum in these biennial matches.

"This was their day," said Chris DiMarco, who teamed with Jay Haas in an alternate-shot match for the only US victory on an otherwise bleak day. The other half-point came from Chris Riley, who made a 6-foot par putt on the 18th hole to enable him and Stewart Cink to halve their better-ball match.

Europe matched the largest first-day lead, first set by the United States in 1975 in an era before continental players were added to the mix and the Americans seemingly only had to show up to win the shin

COLIN Montg
and Padraig Ha
Europe's bid.

Scramble nets Californ

SAN FRANCISCO—Barry Bonds' historic home run No. 700 didn't end up in the flotilla of kayaks in McCovey Cove, or in the small fishing nets held by children above the right field bleachers.

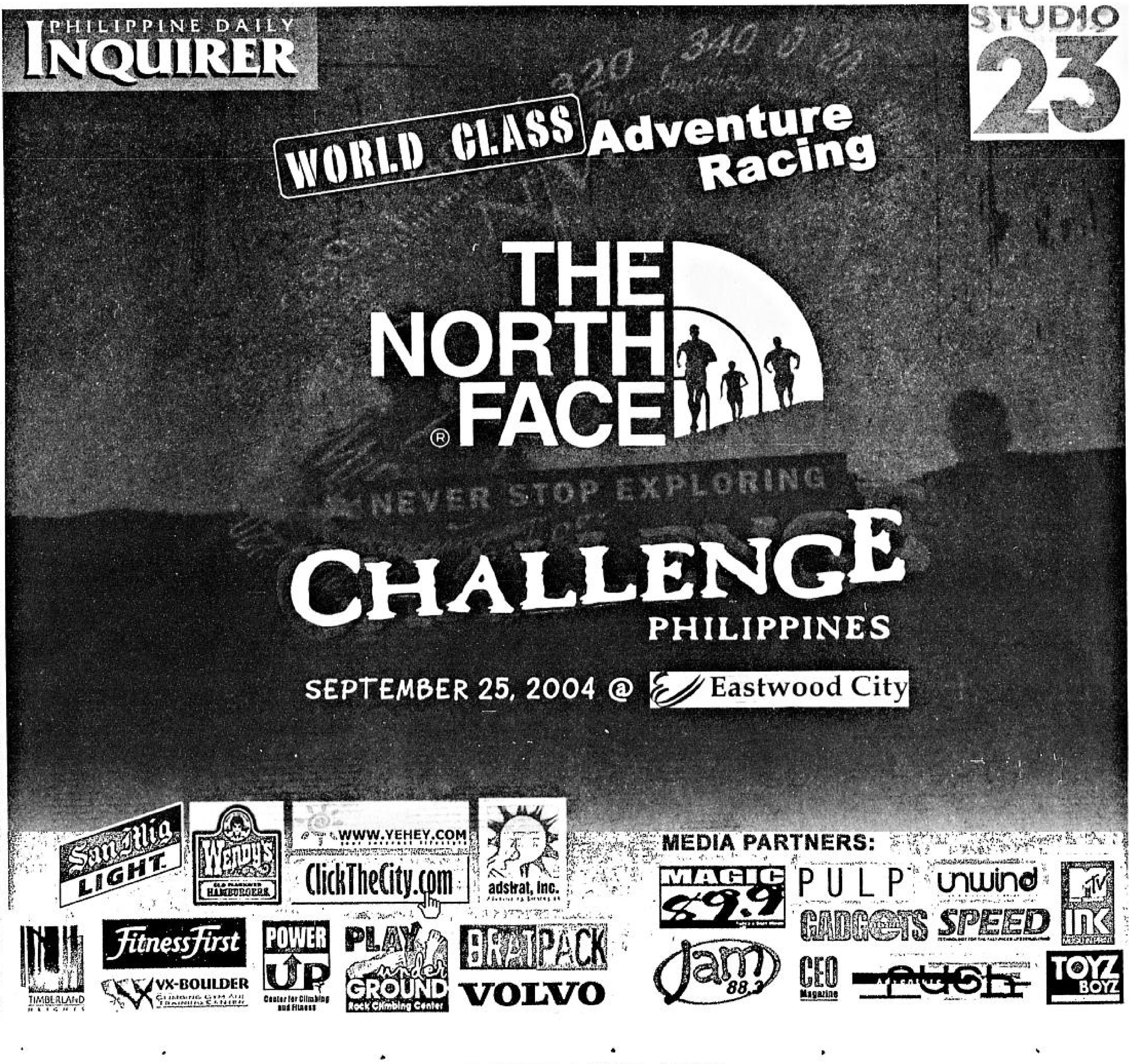
It was an old-fashioned scramble that earned Steven Williams, 25, of Pacifica, California, the prized ball.

Williams was standing with friends when Bonds lit into Jake Peavy's third-inning slider.

"I was looking around. All o
see this white thing flying th
sky. It could be a moth," Williar

When the ball went into h
Williams ended up on the grou
his stomach, frantically trying
ball. Then he got lucky.

"It wasn't that far from me. I
'Hey! I'm right in contention f



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cks dream early lead

merie (standing)
rrington kick off
AFP

gold trophy.

The Europeans must feel the same way. They have won the cup six of the last nine times, and there was nothing on Friday to suggest these matches would turn out any differently.

It took the Americans 70 holes and 6 1/2 hours before they led in any match—and not even that one lasted.

Woods and Mickelson seized early control against Clarke and Westwood in the alternate-shot match when Woods hit a towering 3-wood within 10 feet on the par-5 second hole. They won the next two holes for a 3-up lead, but that was gone by the 10th hole.

Mickelson, with one of several blunders, watched his wedge on the 11th spin off the front of the green and back into the fairway for a bogey that gave Europe its first lead in that match. And while the Americans scratched back to tie the match when Westwood couldn't get out of a bunker on the 17th, the final hole summed up their day.

Mickelson teed off on No. 18 with a 3-wood, and he sliced it so badly that it one-hopped off the out-of-bounds fence and stopped only a few feet away, leaving Woods no choice but to take a one-shot penalty drop away from the fence. They wound up with a double bogey and another loss.

Woods also started with two losses in 2002 at The Belfry.

Mickelson, who left himself open to criticism by switching equipment last week and not playing the course the last two days of practice, now has lost nine straight matches in the Ryder Cup and Presidents Cup.

US captain Hal Sutton was practically speechless.

"I'm going to have to look at the pairings pretty closely," he said. "I had a game plan for today, and the game plan (was) totally foiled. Tiger played pretty good, but not his best. Phil didn't play very well. We'll see." **AP**

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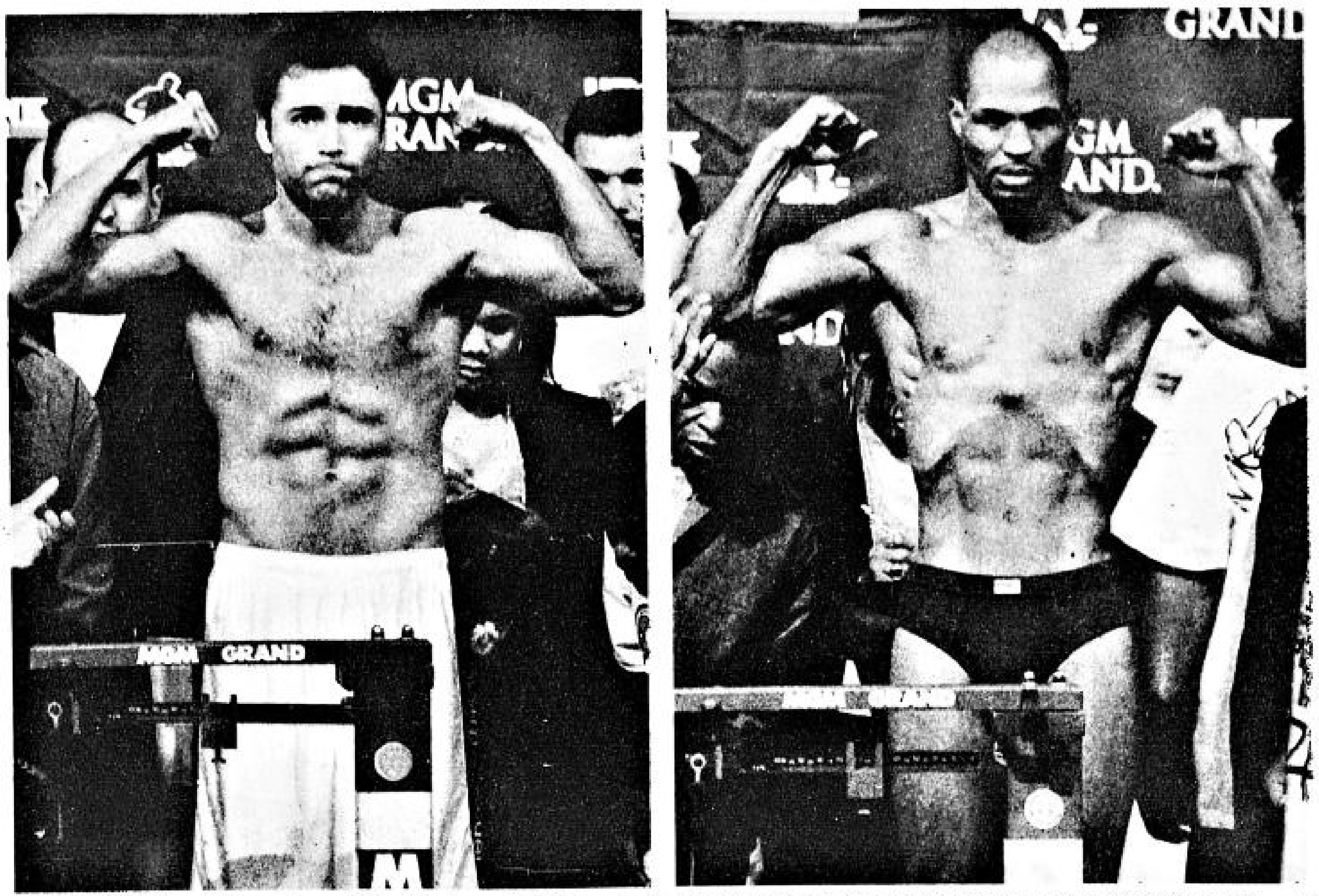
So what's it worth?

"It's worth whatever somebody will pay for it," Williams said with a slight grin. **AP**

WILLIAMS AP



OSCAR De La Hoya (left) and Bernard Hopkins show off their form during the weigh-in. The two will clash for the unified middleweight title. AP

Hoya vs Hopkins: Everything at stake

LAS VEGAS—Oscar De La Hoya has been in enough big fights to know what each one means. Some have helped build his reputation, others have made him rich.

So don't just chalk it up to hype when he says his fight on Saturday against Bernard Hopkins means more than all of them put together.

"This is for all the marbles," De La Hoya said. "This is the fight that will define my career."

For once, De La Hoya may not be exaggerating. By challenging Hopkins for the undisputed middleweight title, he's either picked a great way to stake his claim to history or a spectacular way to end his career.

Fighting a bigger, stronger fighter who doesn't remember what it's like to lose, De La Hoya will need the fight of his life to become an undisputed champ for the first time in his spectacular career.

Oddsmakers don't figure he'll get it, making the Golden Boy a 2-1 underdog in a fight that could be the richest nonheavyweight bout.

"The only situation I've never experienced is being the underdog. It's burning me inside," De La Hoya said.

So does Hopkins, whose hard life and stubborn insistence on doing things his way kept him from getting his first big-money fight until age 39.

"De La Hoya has done everything you can do in boxing. He made more money than any fighter probably in the history of boxing," Hopkins said. "But give me a rich fighter and a hungry fighter, and I'll take the hungry fighter every time."

De La Hoya weighed in at 69.7 kilograms (155 pounds) on Friday, while Hopkins was 70.2 (156). The contract weight limit for the fight was 71 kg (158 lb).

Hopkins (44-2-1, 31 knockouts) will make at least $10 million for the scheduled 12-round fight. De La Hoya will make at least $30 million for only his second fight as a middleweight.

Hopkins, who hasn't lost in 11 years and has defended his middleweight title 18 times, plans to make De La Hoya earn every penny.

"I'm going to set a fierce pace. It's going to be a Marvin Hagler-Tommy Hearns kind of fight," Hopkins said. "If he takes a deep breath, I'm telling you, it's over."

Hopkins likes to compare himself to Hagler, another fighter who made a career out of stalking opponents with relentless pressure and wearing them down on the inside. But he rejects this fight being compared to the 1987 middleweight title fight upset of Hagler by Sugar Ray Leonard.

Like Leonard did against Hagler, De La Hoya will have to box and move to beat Hopkins. He didn't show great power in his only middleweight fight against Felix Sturm in June, and Hopkins figures to win any toe-to-toe exchanges.

But De La Hoya (37-3, 29 knockouts) has had a problem with stamina late in his fights, and he will have to stand up against Hopkins in spurts and hold his own while hoping he's doing enough to win rounds. **AP**

The world's fiercest advertising award show is coming.
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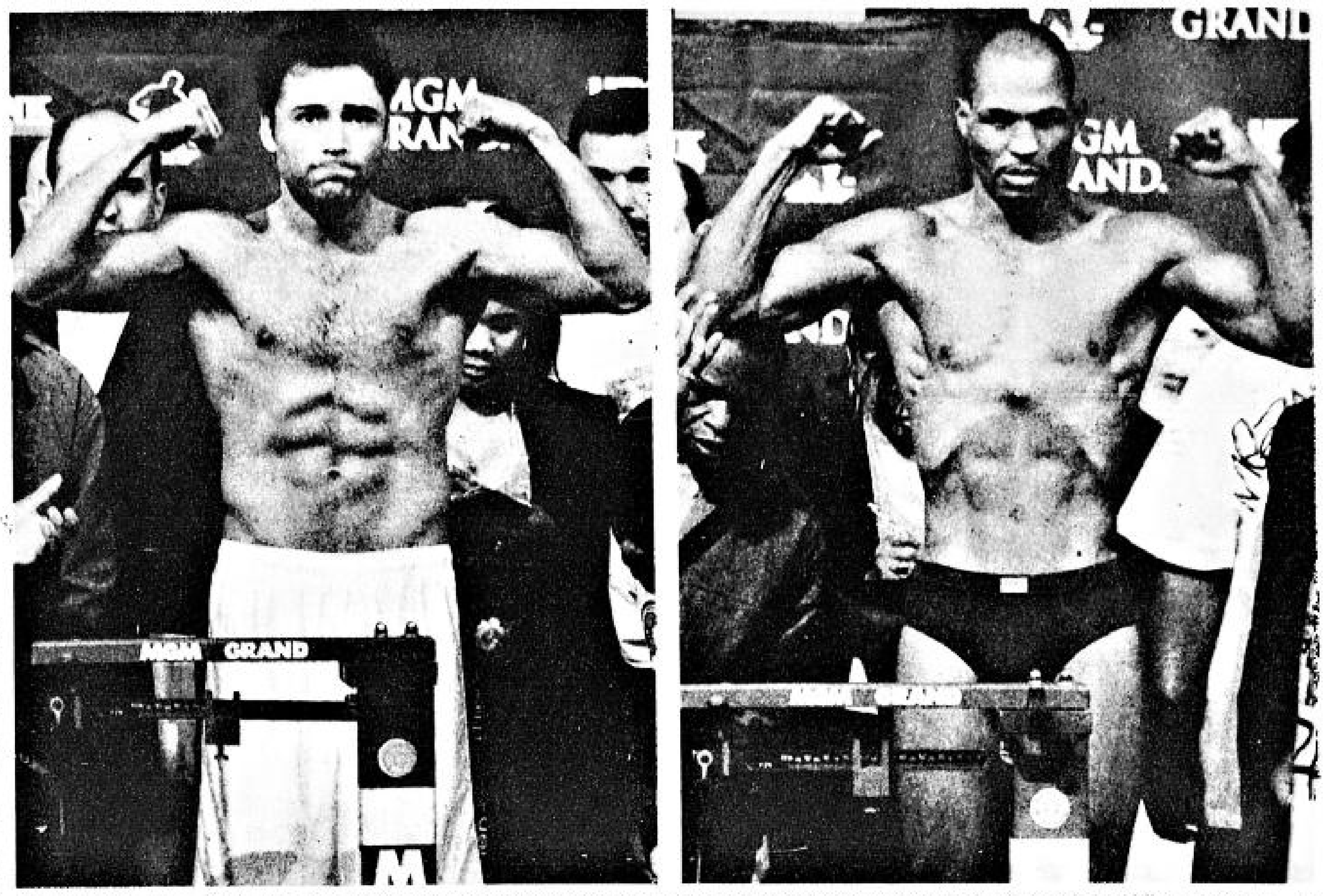

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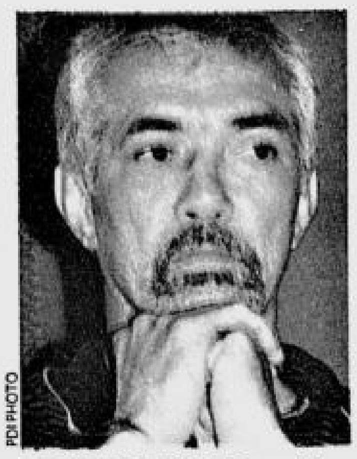


PDI PHOTO

FERNANDEZ: URBL Commish

URBL opens Sept. 25 in Cebu City

THE UNITED Regional Basketball League (URBL), bent on bringing grassroots basketball to the regional level, will open on Sept. 25 in Cebu City.

Four-time Philippine Basketball Association MVP and URBL Commissioner Ramon Fernandez said the league intends to develop and give exposure to the players who will later move up to the pro ranks or the Philippine Basketball League.

Host Cebu City is represented by the M. Lhuillier Kwarta Padala Jewelers of businessman Michel Lhuillier and coached by Councilor Raul "Yayoy" Alcoseba. The Jewelers boast the likes of Bruce Dacia and Leo Bat-og to name a few.

Cebu will have another team in Lactovitale-Cebu that will play out of the northern municipality of Bogo. Vice Gov. Greg Sanchez, Rep. Celestino 'Junie" Martinez and businessman Joe Soberano are the team's backers. Rhoel Gomez will be the coach. Their roster is still being withheld but sources said they have enlisted some members of the San Miguel All-Stars.

The teams from Luzon are from the provinces of Quezon, Ilocos Sur and Pampanga. Quezon is backed by Gov. Wilfredo Enverga and coached by Francis Rodriguez. Jomar Tierra, Arnold Rodriguez and Vincent San Diego are the Power's main men.

The Ilocos Sur Snipers of Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson and Vice Gov. DV Savellano will be leaning on veterans Jerome Barbosa, Johnedel Cardel and Allan Yu.

Harbor Centre-Pampanga will be bankrolled by brothers Mikee and Nikki Romero and will consist of the core of the University of the Assumption Blue Pelicans plus veterans VJ Santos and Billy Bansil.

Games of the URBL will be on a home-and-away format. Teams are required to enlist at least four homegrown players from their regions. They will also be conducting personal appearances and clinics in the hope of finding cage talents.

Peñalosa vs Thai in Cebu

By Salven L. Lagumbay
Contributor

MANDAUE CITY—Former World Boxing Council super flyweight champion Gerry Peñalosa hits the comeback road against Thai Samingkao Chutipol tonight at the Mandaue City Sports and Cultural Complex here.

This will be the southpaw Peñalosa's first fight since Dec. 20, 2002 when he lost by split decision to Japan-based North Korean Masamori Tokuyama in their rematch.

Peñalosa (46-5-2, 31 KOs) swears the old fire has been regained as he vowed to win impressively against the 19-year-old Thai visitor, who is a member of Thailand's Jimmy Chaichochuang Stable.

Peñalosa tipped the scales yesterday at 118 lb during the official weigh-in held at the Games and Amusements Board office in Cebu, while the baby-faced Thai came in at 119.5 in his first try then got down to 118 after 10 minutes of workout.

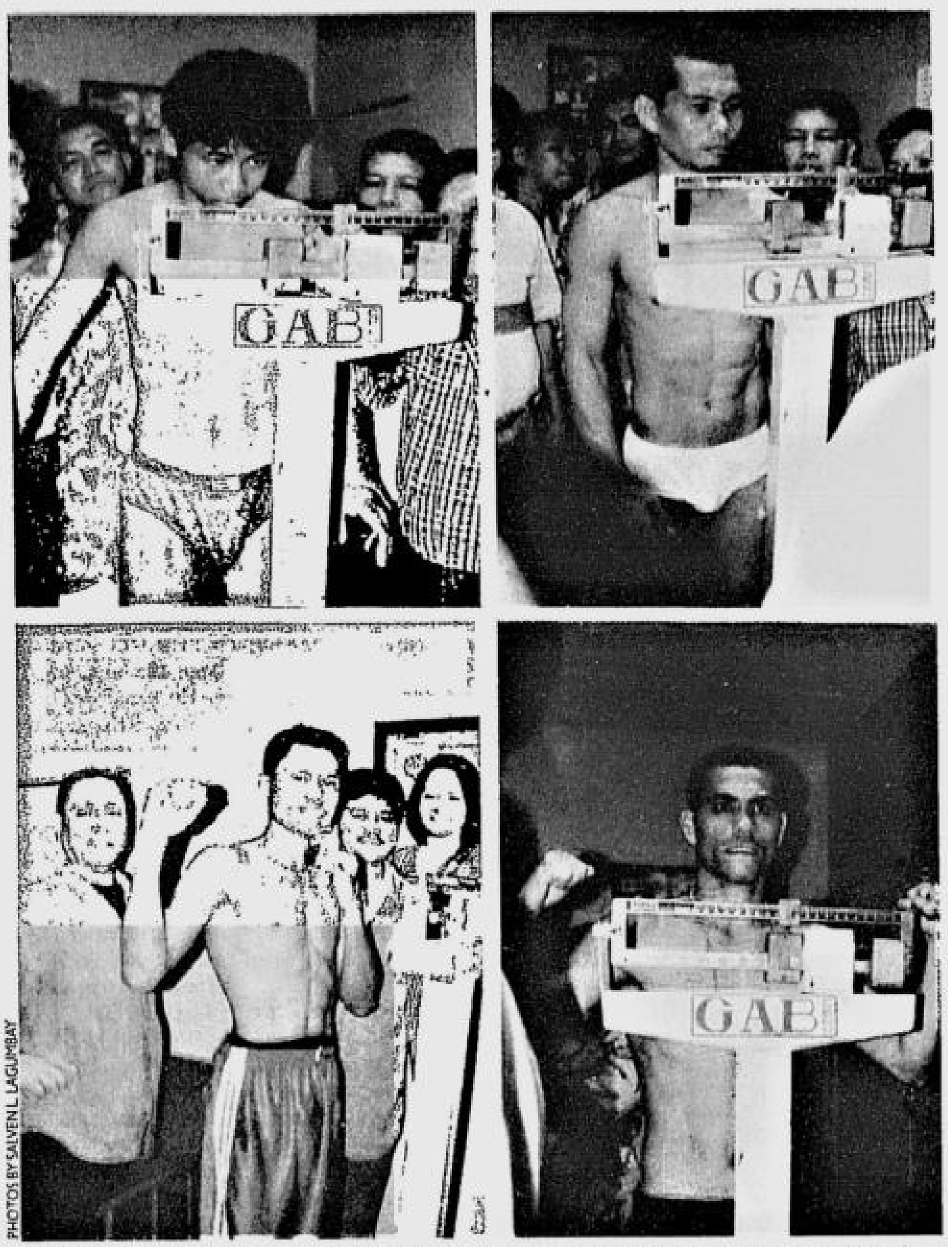
"Gerry is in really great shape. He's been preparing for this comeback fight since December last year," said ex-world champ Dodie Boy Peñalosa, who now trains his younger brother.

In the co-feature of this card dubbed "Out for Blood," ex-World Boxing Council flyweight king Malcolm Tuñacao takes on Kidapawan's Bernard Oclus of the Jemmel Contayoso Stable in another 10-round affair.

Tuñacao, holder of the WBC International super fly title, hopes a win would line him up for another world title opportunity. Oclus, who tipped the beam at 117, says he is gunning for an "earth-shaking upset."

Backstopping the two southpaws' return appearances are two young guns from the Stonewall Boxing Club—Eric Rapada and Richard Garcia—who will face Ronnie Cañete and Aljun Salugaol, respectively.

The card also pits Michael Forenas against Octavio Aleonar (6 rounds); Rogelio Bardon versus Alex Aroy (6), and Robert Lerio against Danilo Cabardo (4).



PHOTOS BY SALVEN L. LAGUMBAY

GERRY Peñalosa (above, right) weighs in with opponent Samingkao Chutipol (left) as Malcolm Tuñacao (below, right) and Bernard Oclus tip the scale at the GAB office in Cebu yesterday.

Escaner dethrones Tribo as RP superbantam king

By Salven L. Lagumbay
Contributor

EXPERIENCE proved to be the deciding factor as veteran Alex Escaner dethroned Reynald Tribo by unanimous decision in their Philippine super bantamweight title fight Friday evening in San Juan, Metro Manila.

Escaner, from the Marty Elorde Stable, used his all-around skills in befuddling the aggressive Tribo, prevailing on two scores of 115-113 and 116-113.

The win improved Escaner's record to 19-9-3, with 8 KOs, while SGG's Tribo slid to 6-2, with 4 KOs.

In the main supporting bout, ALA Boy Sherwin Paro returned to his winning form, stopping Jaime Acerda with a series of combinations in two minutes 39 seconds of the eighth round of their scheduled 10-rounder.

Paro had earlier sent Acerda down twice with a right straight and crisp uppercut to keep his hopes alive for another titular crack in the future.

In the other 10-rounder, Elder Romero of Marty Elorde Stable sent down Roberto Moreno twice with body shots, finally halting the latter in 1:50 of the fourth round.

The fights were part of the "Ringside TV Boxing Goes to San Juan" card put up by Marty Elorde at the Plaza San Juan along Domingo Street.

Paragua keeps lead

FILIPINO International Master Mark Paragua halved the point with Russian IM Jakov Geller in the 11th round to stay on top of the 2nd Alushta GM Tournament in Alushta, Crimea, Ukraine, late Friday.

But the result put Paragua in a bind as he needs to sweep his next three matches or score at least 3.5 points in his last four games to complete his grandmaster requirements.

The 20-year-old Filipino can get the norm after the 14th and penultimate round, where he will face Russian GM Veniamen Shtyrenkov, provided that he will have at least 10.5 points by then.

He can also bag the last norm he needs to get the GM title by finishing with 11.0 points in the 16-man event. *Marlon Bernardino*

Lapid vows ₱200-M aid to SEAG '05

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE SENATE expects to raise at least P200 million from its pork barrel as its share in the snowballing drive to raise funds and save the country's hosting of the 2005 Southeast Asian Games.

LAPID JESS YUSON

Sen. Lito Lapid, chair of the committee on games, amusements and sports, announced this to some sports officials this week along with a plan to sit down with the Philippine SEAG Organizing Committee for an update on the preparation for the Games.

Lapid said three of his colleagues, Jinggoy Estrada, Loi Ejercito and Pia Cayetano, have already agreed to donate part of their countrywide development fund to the SEAG hosting.

However, Cayetano reportedly wants to extend financial help directly to the athletes, whose training and preparation will be handled by the Philippine Sports Commission.

"We at the Senate should help. This is not only for Philippine sports but also for the entire nation," Lapid was quoted as saying in Filipino.

The House of Representatives also has a pending resolution to earmark part of their pork barrel to the SEAG kitty according to Bacolod Rep. Monico Puentevella.

The Congress can raise P600 million, added Puentevella, also the weightlifting president.

"We are pleased with the outpouring of support for our SEAG staging," said PSC chair Eric Buhain. "Right now we are on track with the preparation, particularly the training of the athletes and assessment of the sports facilities that will be repaired."

Organizers expect to spend P1 billion for the country's third staging of the biennial competition among Asean nations. Most of the expenses will be for the renovation of facilities and purchase of timing equipment.

Philsoc chair Obet Pagdanganan had earlier assured that expenses for the SEA Games would be regained through tourism alone. He said if each of the projected 14,000 foreign visitors would only spend $1,000, the country stands to already earn P800,000.

The Philsoc also expects a return of investment from marketing the event. Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit earlier said a Malaysian marketing firm had promised to raise P150 million through international sponsorships alone.

Predictions

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

TWO battles highly touted as supposed to be classic are in store for us today. One, the De La Hoya-Hopkins fight. Two, the Ateneo-La Salle clash.

Friends have been calling, asking about my choice, De La Hoya or Hopkins? Ateneo or La Salle?

In all his fights, I have always picked De La Hoya to win. I believed he won them all.

In his most memorable fight thus far, I picked Hopkins to win. That was against Felix Trinidad some years back.

Ah, that fight.

Hermie Rivera and I did the fight coverage on RPN 9. After the bout, we hied off to Burgoo's located near Rembrandt Hotel on Morato in Quezon City.

"Hey, you guys," said the waiter as he prepared to get our order, "aren't you the same fellas doing the coverage of that fight there?"

He was pointing at the TV featuring the delayed airing of the Trinidad-Hopkins fight.

The lesson there was, Hermie and I drank our beer with our neckties on. That was reason enough for the manager to give us some discounts—and a bonus of free chicken wings.

The Hopkins-Trinidad fight was one of the high points of my life. Why, because I defied the odds, argued animatedly with friends even, when I picked Hopkins to win.

Even my legman of 20 years, Valentin Dakuykoy, had been adamant. "This time, Sir, you'll fall flat on your face."

I love challenges. I am a risk-taker, yes, but then, modesty aside, I gamble only after having studied the situation thoroughly. I play poker with my cards close to my chest always, so to speak.

Trinidad then was hot like a newly minted Hollywood celebrity since he was fresh from his monumental victory over De La Hoya. But I disagreed with the judges' decision to declare Trinidad the winner over De La Hoya.

Again, I disagreed with the oddsmakers making Trinidad the heavy favorite to beat Hopkins although virtually everybody, save for Hopkins' mother, had picked Trinidad to win.

And as things turned out, Hopkins' mother and I were proven right. Trinidad lost. By knockout.

"That was one hell of a prediction you just made, buddy," said Hermie as we stepped out of the RPN 9 studios. "That calls for a celebration."

Although it was a Sunday, and Sundays are usually home-only-for-me, I had to oblige to Hermie's request that we kill some bottles. And that's why we landed at Burgoo's.

I picked Hopkins (2 defeats) over the unbeaten Trinidad because I believe Hopkins' defeats came via dubious decisions. Against Trinidad, I just had to stick my neck out and go for Hopkins. I don't know, it's maybe the Aries in me: stubborn.

Will I be stubborn again and predict Hopkins to beat De La Hoya?

I am actually torn between two lovers here. I like them both. As I said, I had picked De La Hoya to win all his fights.

What do I do now? Declare a draw?

OK, here. Hopkins will win if his 38-year-old knees still have what it takes to withstand the rigors of a fight involving a boxer as talented as De La Hoya. Because Hopkins packs firepower in both his fists, which can also be said of De La Hoya, he can pull it out of the fire should the fight go toe to toe.

De La Hoya will win if he can jab and employ the hit-and-run strategy for 12 rounds. Otherwise, he will fall once he gets tagged.

My prediction? Hopkins. It's a hunch aching to be told.

Now to the UAAP.

I'll go Ateneo, although the Blue Eagles are the absolute underdogs. It's primarily that reason why I picked them: Ateneo seems to play its best when its back is against the wall, as when it lost top gun Larry Fonacier on injury and still went on to top the first round. With the specter of elimination facing them, the Eagles will do everything to stave off humiliation.

Sometimes, when pride is on the line, there are no heights high enough that can't be scaled.

Team Birel-Fila bets do good at Kart Zone

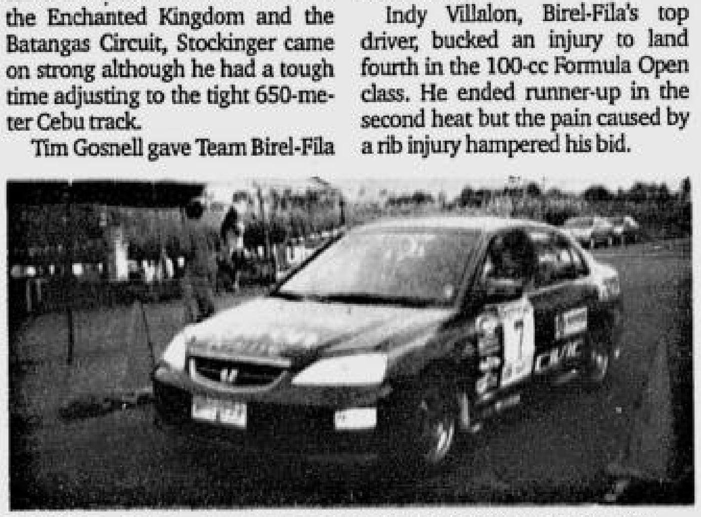
CEBU CITY—Team Birel-Fila put up an impressive show with all its drivers, led by Marlon Stockinger, garnering podium finishes recently in the Cebu leg of the 2004 PCSO-Shell Superkarting Series at the Kart Zone in Mabolo here.

Stockinger, Birel-Fila's youngest driver, spearheaded the trophy haul as he bagged third place in the Formula Rotax Max Juniors division. Fresh from back-to-back victories at the Enchanted Kingdom and the Batangas Circuit, Stockinger came on strong although he had a tough time adjusting to the tight 650-meter Cebu track.

Tim Gosnell gave Team Birel-Fila another cause for celebration with a runner-up finish in the Formula 125 Rotax Max Division. Gosnell, who earlier figured in a collision, inched his way from the back of the pack to check in behind Cebu bet Jan Jan Gonzales.

Team Birel-Fila got another big ride from Cebuano protégé Ezra Pages who rallied from 10th place to finish third in the KT Light Novice Division.

Indy Villalon, Birel-Fila's top driver, bucked an injury to land fourth in the 100-cc Formula Open class. He ended runner-up in the second heat but the pain caused by a rib injury hampered his bid.



TEAM Honda's Ivan Isada in his Honda Civic Vtec joined the 2nd leg of the 2004 Petron Blaze Shootout National Drag Race Championship Series at Clarkfield recently.

'Bored' Wind Blown coming back

WIND Blown is back at the HSE Stable of noted horseowner Hermie Esguerra (inset).

By Edwin Villanueva
Contributor

WIND Blown, the country's most accomplished galloper, is showing tell-tale signs of returning to active competition.

A long layoff and "boredom" at the stud farm are what prominent horseowner Hermie Esguerra said made him decide to bring Wind Blown back to his stable at Santa Ana where the champion horse was quartered at the height of his illustrious track career

"It's the breeding off-season and Wind Blown has shown signs of boredom at the farm. He's now back at the stable where the facilities are enough to give him the wide range of exercises he needed," Esguerra told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Wind Blown made history by winning the Marho Breeders' Cup Classic for the third straight time in November last year marking his final official run. He made his farewell gallop last Dec. 7 before he was retired to stud with more than P19 million in earnings, the most by any local racehorse.

"After almost eight months of stud duty, *parang naglilibang muna siya* (it seems he's enjoying himself)," added Esguerra.

Wind Blown's feat in 2003 earned him the unanimous nod of the Philippine Sportswriters Association (PSA) which named him Horse of the Year for the second straight year. The Philippine Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Organization (Philtobo) also accorded him the same honor, while Esguerra notched the Horseowner of the Year award, also for the second consecutive year.

"The way he communicates to me, it seems he's not used to a long vacation. He's a very intelligent horse and he's showing signs that he's raring to run actively again. It's probably him who'll tell me when he's ready," said Esguerra, whose HSE Stable remains No. 1 in local racing.

Andrew Sanchez, who is now conditioning Wind Blown, said he was amazed at how fast the now 8-year-old son of Hazm and Wind in My Hair has recovered from his long layoff.

"He did not even show the temperament of a stallion and we did not expect him to settle down fast. When he returned to the stable recently, his weight was 570 kilos. Now it's 545 and nearing his fighting weight of 540," said Sanchez, a former star pelotari who also once held the post of Philracom chair.

Wind Blown, according to Sanchez, may be ready to plunge back to action by November, the month of the Marho Breeders' Cup Championships leading to the prestigious Presidential Gold Cup in December.

Justino "Nick" Atienza, who also conditions Esguerra gallopers, said Wind Blown may be ranged four groups lower than his previous division due to the long vacation and like Sanchez, he was surprised to see how fast Wind Blown is getting back into shape.

"*Nandun pa rin yung gilas at hindi hirap gumalope kaya tingin ko di mahihirapang makuha uli ang* peak form *niya* (He's still agile and gallops smoothly so I think he'll get back into tip-top form easily)," he said.

Esguerra, saying he's flattered when fans speculate that Wind Blown is running again, added he's still hoping for the best for his multi-awarded charger.

August race sales hits record ₱5.6B

PHILIPPINE horseracing is enjoying its finest season ever.

That is because another record-breaking year is looming in the industry as comparative gross sales for August reached a hefty P5,648,267,240, the Philippine Racing Commission announced yesterday.

Philracom chair Jimmy Dilag said the output was an increase of 19.22 percent over the same period last year which translated to an improvement of P910,528,607 in teller bets.

"We're looking forward to another banner year. We'd like to thank President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo for her continued support of the racing industry," said Dilag, who also served as commissioner during the Aquino administration.

Dilag also lauded the various sectors of the industry, notably the Metropolitan Association of Racehorse Owners, Philippine Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Organization, Klub Don Juan, other racing groups, and the *bayang karerista*, for playing a big part in the achievement.

Philracom executive director/commissioner Eddie Jose said the hefty sales also generated a total of P740,877,178 to the government coffers—P151,804,101 more than last year over the same span—or a remarkable increase of 25.77 percent.

To sustain the industry growth, Dilag, a former pelotari, said the Philracom is also pursuing its massive drive to curb illegal bookie joints.

Edwin Villanueva, Contributor

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Dalia 2. Victory Lap 3. Assunta de Rio
Race 2—1. Elite 2. Sambat 3. Hello Happy 4. Oliver Sun Joy
Race 3—1. Magic Dancer 2. Lord of the Ring 3. Best In Class 4. Ground Wave
Race 4—1. Gold and Star 2. Gleaming Heart 3. Husay Na 4. Sweet Paula 5. Precious Moment
Race 5—1. Bulakeña 2. Winter's Fury/Perfect Storm 3. Surprise Target 4. Queen of Diamonds
Race 6—1. Key Apo 2. Real Slew/Crystal Show
Race 7—1. Ouzo/Neat Laurel 2. West Bound 3. Dandansoy 4. Cutting Edge
Race 8—1. Don Miguel 2. Burst of Speed 3. Kumpirmado 4. Muskero 5. Gorgeous Sand
Race 9—1. Diktador 2. Ragini 3. San Diego Force 4. Lord of All
Race 10—1. Seven Lakes 2. Si Isidro Ko 3. Taste of Magic 4. Jhe-Anne D Great 5. Blitzkrieg
Race 11—1. Dashing 2. Well Noted 3. Bronte 4. Aya's Star
Race 12—1. Stallone 2. Vindicated 3. Cool Runnings 4. Hantuchova
Race 13—1. Korek Ka Dyan 2. Blue Bolero 3. Front Page/Lady Victoria 4. Boy from Brazil 5. Big Mama 6. Danielle's Angel

First British Cup today at Sta. Ana

BIDDING to improve bilateral ties with the United Kingdom, the foundation of thoroughbred racing, Philippine Racing Club Inc. (PRCI), the country's premier race club, is set to host the running of the first-ever "British Cup," one of the highlight events in today's marquee race card at the Santa Ana Park.

British Ambassador to the Philippines' Paul Diamond is expected to attend the blue-ribbon race and award the trophies to the winning connections.

Six classy thoroughbreds are entered in the 1,600-meter "British Cup," an all-corners cast, led by popular Aussie-bred 4-year-old colt Key Apo, will be making his comeback start in the P370,000 guaranteed stakes event bankrolled by the Philippine Racing Club.

Set to challenge Key Apo for the crown are imports' Catwalk Pia, Crystal Show, Real Slew and Time Gentleman, as well as, lone local entry Lyonnais.

Lending support to the running of the "British Cup" are five other special invitational races named after the major geographical divisions comprising the United Kingdom, including England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, as well as, the British capital of London..Each of the five featured events carry a guaranteed winner's prize of P170,000.

The staging of the "British Cup" and its supporting races is part of PRCI's blockbuster Sunday program, which will also showcase seven other top money races sponsored by Marho in celebration of its 30th founding anniversary.

LA SALLE PLAYER: Michael Paclibar shows fine form as one of the members of the De La Salle team seeing action in the Del Monte 202 Quest 1st Philippine Collegiate Badminton Championships at The Zone in Malugay, Makati. The semifinal and final rounds will be held on Oct. 6-7 at the SM Megamall Atrium.

Revtex Rocket favored in Camel Supercross

ARMED with international experience and seven National Rider of the Year titles, Caltex-Revtex top rider Glenn Aguilar is the overwhelming favorite when the Camel Supercross Championship begins in Roxas City today.

Aguilar, the reigning FIM Motocross Asia-Pacific champion, is coming off a stint in the World Motocross Championships in Belgium, where he was able to ride with his idol, world champion Stefan Everts.

"We welcome the return of the Camel tournament, which has been the site of many exciting motocross battles years ago," said Aguilar, who is also backed by Sidi Boots, Renthal, Oakley, Flamboyant Construction, HJC Helmets, Sea Palace Restaurant and Pro Grip.

"The Caltex team is confident of a dominant show in the coming motocross festival because of our new bikes and the world-class Revtex oil that we use," added Aguilar.

Underscoring his status as rider to beat, Aguilar, together with teammate Kenneth "Wonder Boy" San Andres stamped their class in the Peñafrancia Festival Motocross Championship in Peñafrancia, Naga City, recently.

Eagle Ridge Invt'l field vies for 3 division titles

TOP awards in three handicap divisions will be disputed by an expected field of 200 teams in the second Eagle Ridge Invitational, the member-guest golf tournament of the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club in Gen. Trias, Cavite on Sept. 25-26.

Up for grabs are specially-designed trophies and signature golf bags for the winners in Divisions I, II and III in the 36-hole tournament which has Nissan Commonwealth, Globe Platinum and CIGI Insurance as the major backers.

Participants will also be gunning for prizes worth more than P3 million including three of the X-Trails from Nissan Commonwealth, two of which will be at stake as hole-in-one prizes and another to be raffled off during the awarding ceremonies.

For inquiries, call Tess or Jane at tels. (046)419-2841, (046)419-2855, (02)742-4265 or 0927-6247185, 0921-3679065.

SPORTSWATCH

Samsung's Fistorama on TV

"SAMSUNG'S Fistorama" today features two exciting bouts in the super-flyweight divisions. Jonathan Lobo battles Michael Romulo in four rounds at 115 lbs. in the first bout while Jong Jong Gagante tangles with Jumarlex Mortel in six rounds also at 115 lbs. The bouts were held at the Angono Municipal Gym in Angono, Rizal. The show is aired weekly in the United States, Europe, Australia, Japan, the Middle East and other parts of the world through ABS-CBN's Pinoycentral TV. Samsung's Fistorama is aired at 2 p.m. Sundays on RPN-9.

Big Dome's busy sports schedule

THE FINAL Four clash between the De La Salle Archers and the Ateneo Eagles today in the UAAP basketball championship kicks off a series of exciting sports events at the Araneta Coliseum in Quezon City. The conclusion of the third leg of the 2004 NCA 7-stag derby will be held tomorrow at 4 p.m. with PPGB Mt. Panamao, Mulawin FAU MBJ, PPBG Bronco-ESJ and Arnis Master-II showing the way with identical 3-0 records. It's back to basketball on Wednesday, Sept. 22 with the Philippine Christian University Dolphins shooting for the NCAA crown against University of Perpetual Help Dalta System Altas. The first leg of the 2004 Luzon Gamecock Breeders Association "Gamecock Breeder of the Year" derby is set on Sept. 27 and 29.

Jungolf school season blasts off

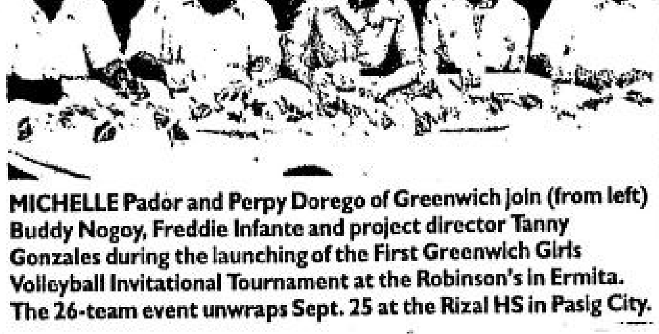
THE COUNTRY'S top jungolfers return to action today as the school season series of the Samsung Jungolf Tour kicks off at the Mt. Malarayat Golf and Country Club in Lipa, Batangas and the Riviera Executive Course in Silang, Cavite. To be disputed are trophies in Class A (15-17 years), Class B (13-14 yrs), Class C (11-12 yrs) and Class D (9-10yrs), Class E (7-8 yrs) and Class F (6 and under). Players in Class A, B, C and D will play at Malarayat while those in Class E and Class F will tackle Riviera.

GCAP 5-stag series Wednesday

THE THIRD leg of Gentlemen Cockers Association of the Philippines (GCAP) 5-Stag Derby Series is slated this Wednesday, Sept. 22, at the air-conditioned Las Piñas Coliseum with Sagupaan Complexor 3000 and Pagcor-Casino Filipino as sponsors. Participants must submit entries on Sept. 21 from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. and may call 873-1040 or 874-3910 for details. The event is supposed to be held tomorrow, but has been moved to Wednesday due to a conflict in schedule. However, GCAP president Patrick Antonio said the remaining four GCAP derbies (Sept. 27, Oct. 4, 11 and 18) will push through as scheduled. Four entries topped the second GCAP derby last Sept. 13. These were Blue Blade of Sonny Lagon, Agilahas of Jenjen and Ashley Arayata, Fatman sa Pasay and EDL Farms of Pepito Ngo.

Galang heads Blaze winners

CLARKFIELD, Pampanga—MOH Speed's Joey Galang weathered the challenge put up by rivals in the race ladder and then banked on a false start by Nelson Pamintuan in the finals to tow three other winners in the second leg of the 2004 Petron Blaze Shootout National Drag Race Championship Series here over the weekend. Nelson Pamintuan, in an owner-type jeep racing machine, settled for second in the Quick 8. Patrick del Rosario saw his Honda Civic V-Tec skid in the Hotstreet finals against Dexter Daquigan's Isuzu Pickup.



MICHELLE Pador and Perpy Dorego of Greenwich join (from left) Buddy Nogoy, Freddie Infante and project director Tanny Gonzales during the launching of the First Greenwich Girls Volleyball Invitational Tournament at the Robinson's in Ermita. The 26-team event unwraps Sept. 25 at the Rizal HS in Pasig City.

GDAP to honor 3 jungolf champions

THREE jungolfers who brought honors to the country by topping world championships will be honored as Golf Personalities of the Year during the Philippine International Golf Show 2004 on Oct. 8-10 at the SM Megamall in Mandaluyong.

Young aces JR Gonzales, Miguel Tabuena and Dottie Ardina will be feted by the Golf Distributors Association of the Philippines for doing the country proud in two tournaments in the United States recently.

Gonzales won the 7-8 years division of the Junior World in San Diego while Tabuena (boys 9 years) and Ardina (girls 9 years) prevailed in the US Kids World Championship.

The Personality of the Year awards highlight the opening ceremonies of the exhibit participated in by the country's biggest golf equipment and apparel distributors and related businesses like turf hardware, travel, media, golf resorts, real estate and corporate giveaways.

Top government and sports officials have also been invited to grace the opening rites of the Show sponsored by Casino Filipino, Nivea and Premier Wine.

"The Personality of the Year award has become our way of paying tribute to people young and old who have made an impact in the local golf scene during the year," said GDAP president Gerald Raymundo.

For details, visit the event website: www.philippineinternationalgolfshow.com or call FMI at 759-6680 or 845-1324 or email golfshow@fairsandmore.com.ph.

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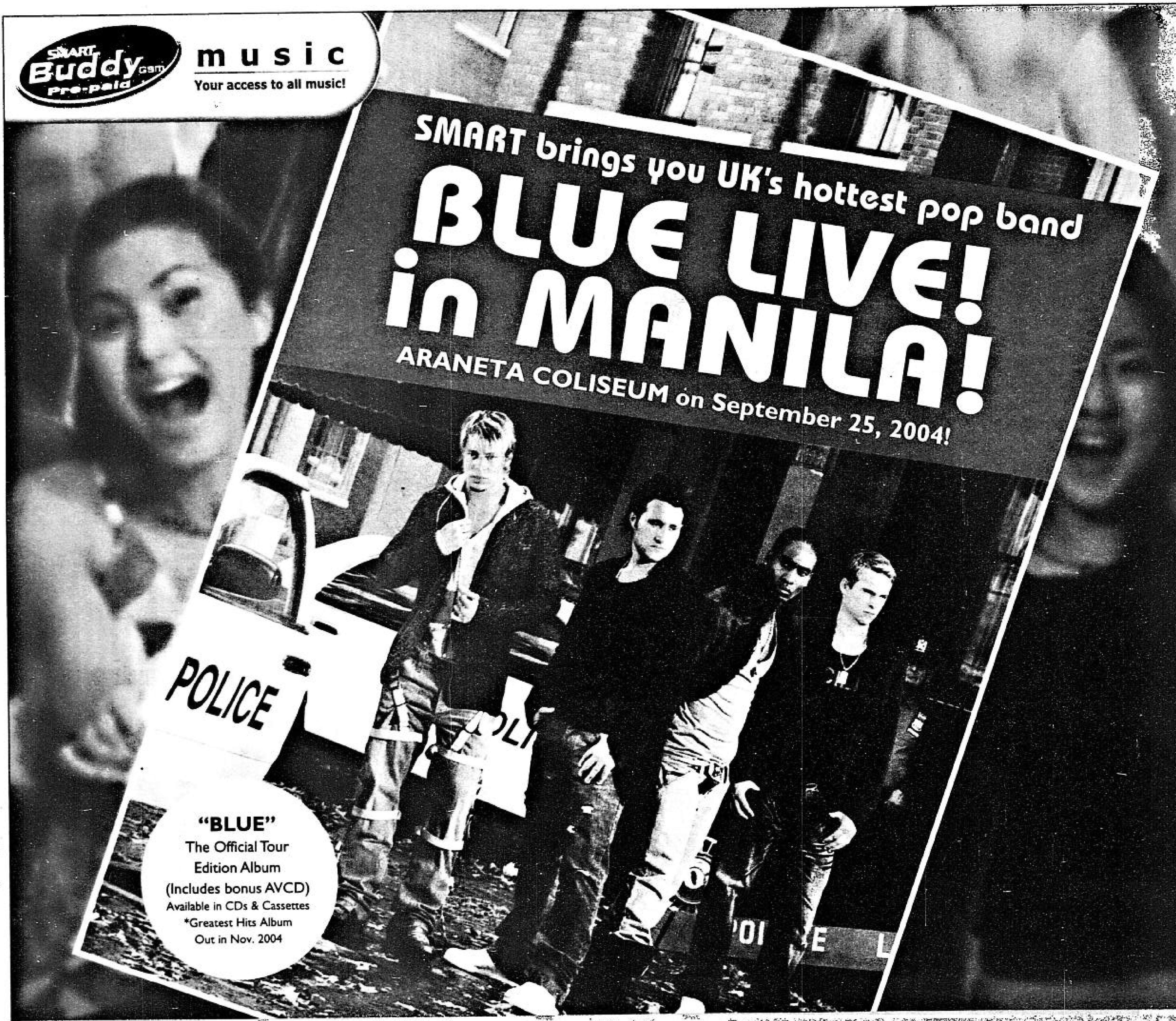

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THE PRODUCERS of "Eat Bulaga!" are "confident that Mr. De Leon has realized his fault and would be much more prudent." JOAN BONDOC

Joey's suspension lifted

Host 'disheartened,' his health 'affected' by sanction

By Marinel R. Cruz

JOEY de Leon can now go back to hosting "Eat Bulaga!" on GMA 7 after serving only one month and one week of his two-month suspension for cracking a vulgar joke on nationwide television.

The Movie and Television Review and Classification Board last week approved the lifting of De Leon's two-month suspension three weeks before he is scheduled to return to the noontime variety show.

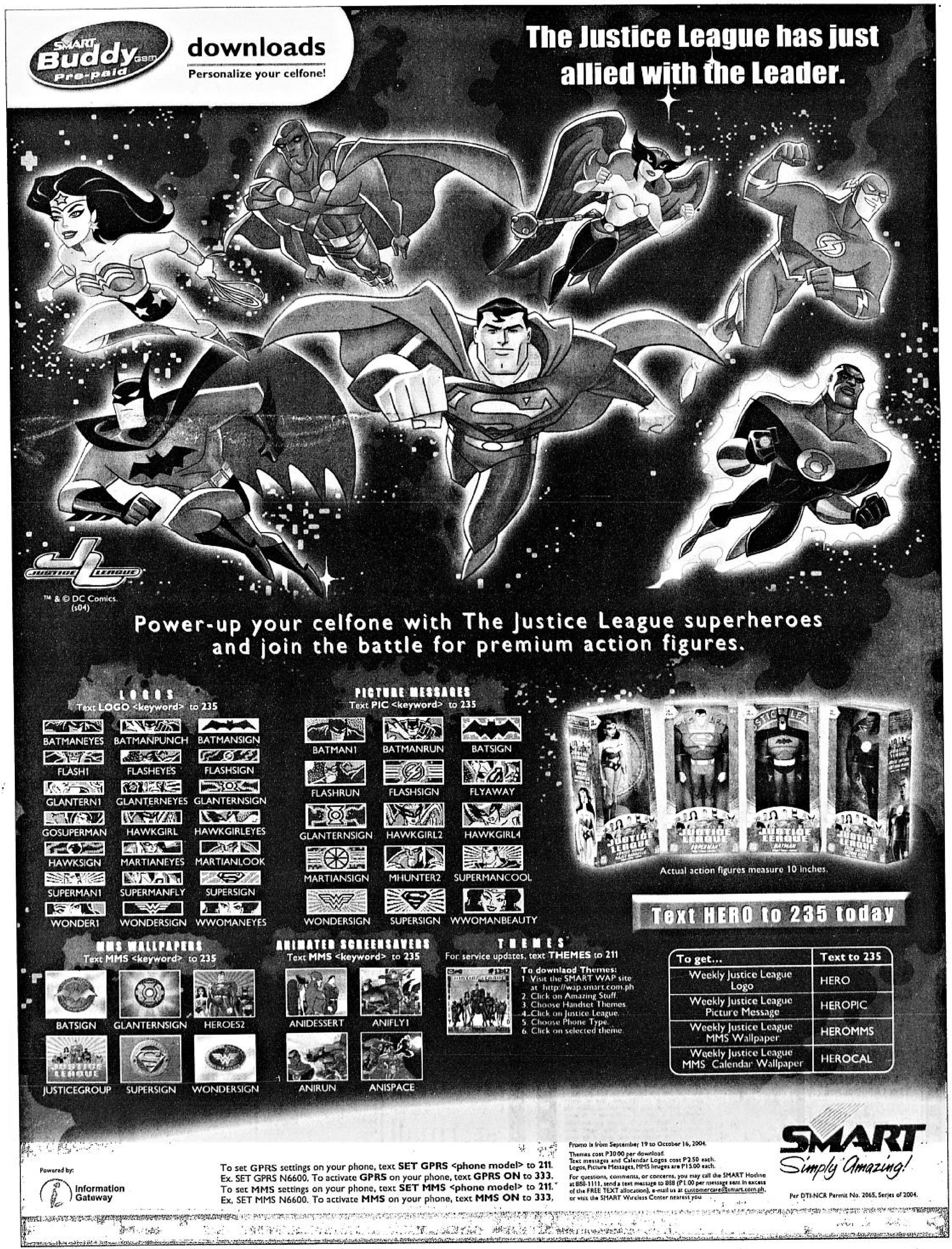
The suspension has "disheartened" De Leon and "affected his health," according to the producers of "Eat Bulaga!"

INQUIRER Entertainment learned that the "Eat Bulaga!" producers, Television and Production Exponents Inc. (Tape), had written to the MTRCB to "appeal for a reduction of (De Leon's) suspension."

Tape President Antonio Tuviera said in the letter that he was "confident that Mr. De Leon has realized his fault and he would be much more prudent in his hosting our program."

Last Aug. 11, Tape suspended De Leon for two months after the MTRCB caught the comedian using "foul language/double-meaning words" on the show. De Leon was supposed to resume

JOEY'S/ A34



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SMART Simply Amazing!

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2065, Series of 2004.

Joey's ...

From page A33

work on Oct. 11.

MTRCB Chair Marissa Laguardia said, "I think, this time, (De Leon) has really learned his lesson and would do away with saying green jokes on television."

She said that as much as the MTRCB has the responsibility to protect the viewers' interest, "it also has a heart that listens."

Tuviera, De Leon, and "Eat Bulaga!" executive producer Malu Choa-Fagar had a 45-minute meeting with Laguardia last Friday to discuss Tape's appeal.

Laguardia described De Leon during the meeting as "very morose-looking, downhearted and quiet."

"I asked him if it was true that he didn't want to return to 'Eat Bulaga!' anymore," Laguardia said last Friday. "He said it was just a joke. *Nagpapansin lang daw.*"

Service segment

In his letter to the MTRCB, Tuviera said "Eat Bulaga!" would also have a community service segment which will be hosted by De Leon.

The segment would require De Leon to "visit and assist various institutions that care for and accommodate the youth and children," said Tuviera.

Laguardia said the MTRCB would see to it that De Leon "keeps his promise" by sending MTRCB agents to "monitor" him while he does his community work from this month to December 2004.

"Since (De Leon) has been one of the main hosts of 'Eat Bulaga!' for the past 25 years, the show has become very much part of his life," Tuviera said. "It is what he looks forward to when he awakes every morning. The suspension has disheartened him so much that it has affected his health."

The MTRCB had complained about the show's "TKO" contest last July 29, where De Leon, talking to a gay contestant, had used the Filipino slang for fellatio.

De Leon had cohosted the segment with Vic Sotto.

It was De Leon's second suspension as a host of "Eat Bulaga!". He was suspended for two weeks in August 2003 after the MTRCB complained of his use of "objectionable and double-meaning words" while interviewing a contestant in the show's "That's My Boy 2003" segment.

An MTRCB monitoring unit said "Eat Bulaga" co-host Anjo Yllana had asked a boy contestant, "What's your favorite pet?" When the boy answered "bird," De Leon told the boy to point to his "bird" and to describe it.

The monitoring unit also quoted De Leon as asking the boy, *"Malaki? Maliit? Maliit pa lang? Ano'ng kulay ng bird mo?* (Is it big? Small? What color is your bird?)"

Laguardia said other hosts of noontime and prime time shows should be careful when cracking jokes on TV. "We are closely monitoring each of these shows," she added.

"We assure you of our continuing commitment to be more sensitive to public sentiment and opinion," Tuviera said in his letter to the MTRCB.

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4 ANACONDAS

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1
13 GOING ON 30
10:35 FS/12:05 MF/
2:15/4:25/6:35/
8:45/10:25 LFS/
11:00 LMF/12:40 END

2
EXORCIST:
THE BEGINNING
10:50 FS/11:20 MF/
1:40/4:00/6:20/
8:40/10:35 LFS/
11:00 LMF/12:55 END

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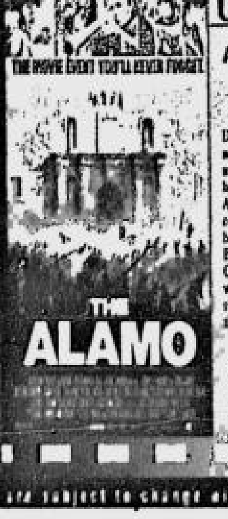
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Bofill performs at Merk's anniversary

THE MUCH-AWAITED performance of jazz and pop diva Angela Bofill on the second anniversary of Merk's Bar Bistro happens on Sept. 27 and 28.

Bofill's return engagement will also feature the participation of Lorrie Ilustre as musical director, Miong Pacana (bass), Cesar Aguas (guitar), Mike Alba (drums), Bond Samson (keyboard 2), vocalists Babsie Molina, Sylvia Macaraeg and Kitchy Molina.

The country's Prince of Jazz Richard Merk will also sing with La Bofill such numbers as "Ain't Nothing Like a Real Thing, Woman," from her album, "Too Tough."

Bofill is all set to sing her hits including "This Time I'll Be Sweeter," "Angel of the Night," "Time to Say Goodbye," and "Break It to Me Gently."

"The anniversary show is a mixed program with Angela Bofill as the main feature," says Merk, who opened Merk's Bar Bistro two years ago.

SHOW TIME

The Forte band, a regular at Merk's, will be featured on Sept. 27, and Acoustic Jive on Sept. 28.

Forte, which packs Merk's Bar Bistro every Friday and Saturday night, is led by Chito Ilagan on bass, Noel Rasco and Gary Lahoy on guitar, with Leny and Pat Castillo, Kettle Mata and Mike Yonting on vocals.

Acoustic Jive is composed of May Bayot on vocals, Romy Jorolan on acoustic steel guitar and vocals, Danny Buenaventura on flute and saxophone, Gerry Duran on nylon guitar, Bobby Fider on bass, Soc Alfafara on various percussion instruments and Rene Tenggasantos on drums.

Acoustic Jive is now celebrating its 10th year in the acoustic scene.

The group is noted for its acoustic arrangements of Police hits, U2's "I Still Haven't Found What I Am Looking For," the Doobie Brothers, the reggae classics of Bob Marley, stylized Broadway hits and jazzed-up Pinoy folk songs.

Bofill's rare two-night show in Manila is presented by Trademerk Concepts Inc., BMW Philippines, BMG Records (Pilipinas) Inc., OLT Ventures, Charmmed, ABS-CBN, MYX, Premier Wines and Spirits, Business World, Malaya, Manila Bulletin, Manila Times, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Philippine Star, The Foreign Post and Today.

The Hotel Intercontinental is the official residence, and the official radio stations are Jam 88.3, Wave 89.1, dwTM 89.9, Joey's 92.3, dwLL 94.7, WRock 99.5. RJFM 100, Crossover 105.1 and Dream 106.

For inquiries, call or text 0917-705-2250 or 0917-850-4017, or 757-4720 or 757-4721.

Merk's Bar Bistro is on the third level of Greenbelt 3 in Makati City.

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MERK

ACOUSTIC Jive

YASMIEN KURDI and Rainier Castillo

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MALIK

Nescafé's 'Good Day' on 'Eat Bulaga!'

NESCAFÉ Classic recently launched its latest campaign on the noontime TV show "Eat Bulaga!" featuring rising stars and one of the hottest bands in the country.

SHOW STOPPER

The Nescafé Classic Good Day Girls shared great tips on how to have a great morning to start the day right. They invited the viewers to check out the Good Day events, including sampling booths at various MRT and LRT stations and other busy parts all over the country.

A grand production number featured Barbie's Cradle singing Nescafé Classic's new "Good Day" song.

Viewers and the studio audience witnessed rising R&B singer Malik, "Eat Bulaga" host Toni Gonzaga, and StarStruck stars Yasmien Kurdi and Rainier Castillo performing with the band.

The Nescafé Good Day Boys and Girls gave everyone in the audience a steaming cup of Nescafé Classic.

Marco Sison, Tosca Puno at Coriks

RICO J. Puno's Coriks Bar this September has top artists like Marco Sison, Miguel Vera and Tosca Puno performing on special nights.

Sept. 29 will feature the lovely Tosca Puno and her acoustic band, with her dad Rico J sometimes sharing the stage with her. Also sharing the night with her is another talented Puno, Trishka Puno.

On Sept. 30, the romantic balladeer Marco Sison performs. Marco recently returned from a United States tour with Rico J, Hajji Alejandro, Nonoy Zuñiga and Rey Valera, also known as the Hitmakers.

"He is our sex symbol," Rico J says of Marco.

Coriks Bar is on Vito Cruz Ext., near Pasong Tamo in Makati.

MARCO Sison

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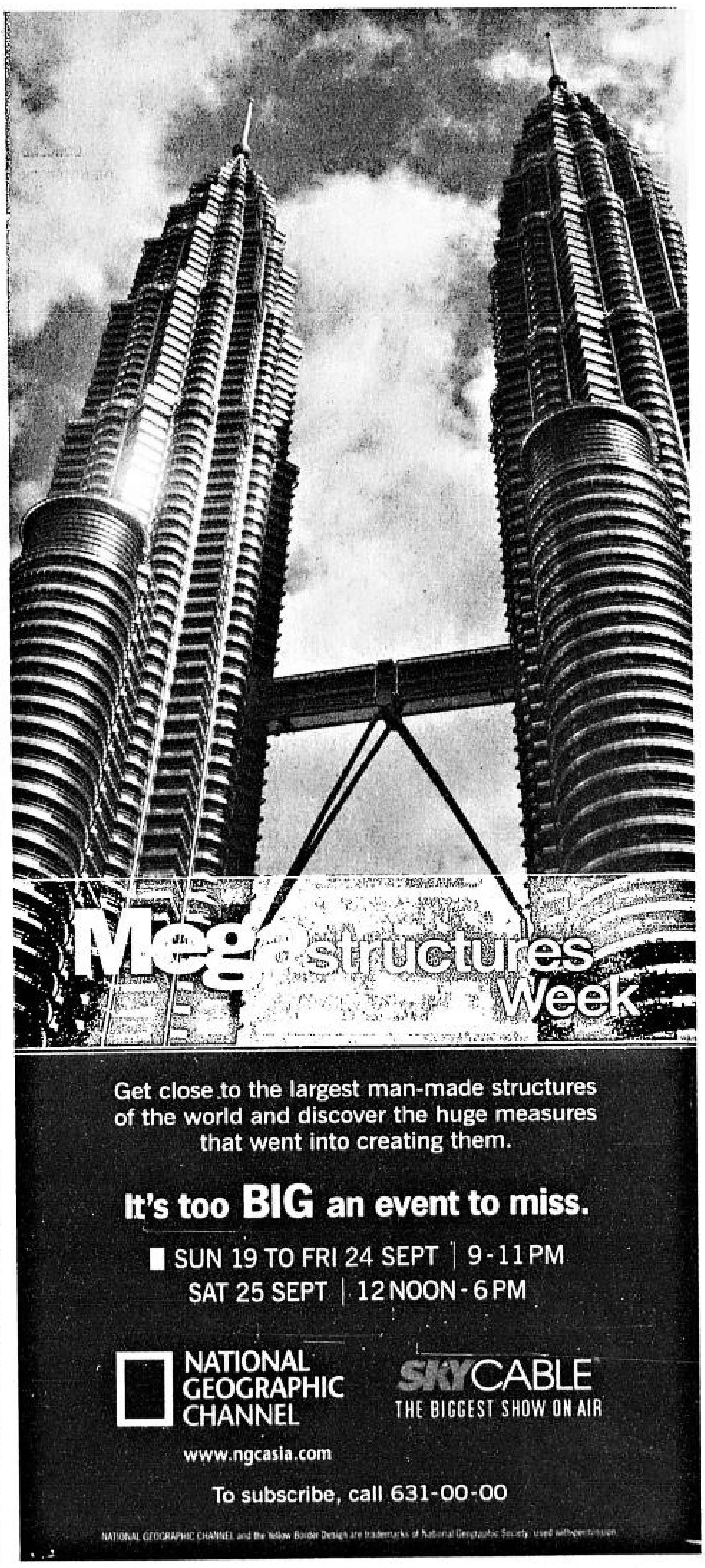

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11:20, 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:10
PG-13

2 THE EXORCIST
11:45, 2:20, 4:55, 7:30, 10:20
R-13

3 THE TERMINAL
11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:20
GP

4 FENG SHUI
10:30, 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 10:20
PG-13

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13 GOING ON 30 PG13 12:00,2:00,4:05, 6:10,8:15,10:20
EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING R13 12:20,2:45,5:10,7:35,10:05
FENG SHUI PG13 12:50,3:10,5:30,7:50,10:10
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FS : 12:20PM, 2:45PM, 5:10PM, 7:35PM
LMF: 10:00PM
MTRCB Rating : (PG-13)
③ THE TERMINAL
FS : 11:40AM, 2:15PM, 4:50PM, 7:25PM
LMF: 10:00 PM
MTRCB Rating : (GP)
④ EXORCIST : The Beginning
FS : 12:30PM, 2:50PM, 5:10PM, 7:30PM
LMF: 9:50PM
MTRCB Rating : (R-13)
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R13
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DID YOU KNOW... Jay-R, labeled the "prince of R&B," was spotted one recent afternoon at the appliance store Abenson in Greenhills, San Juan, with his girlfriend who is not from show biz. The singer was dressed very simply and casually, a far cry from his sexy image as a Bench underwear model.

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ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	BIKTIMA / NAIIBANG HAYOP
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	FENG SHUI
B	CLOSED
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA 1, 2, 3 & 4	THE NOTEBOOK/THE TERMINAL/PRINCESS DIARIES 2/DODGEBALL
PREMIERE THEATRE	ANACONDAS
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	FENG SHUI
CINEMA-2	TAG-INIT
CINEMA-3	TOOLBOX MURDER
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	DODGEBALL
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	GODSEND
CINEMA-6	THE NOTEBOOK
CINEMA-7	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
CINEMA-8	NENA INOSENTE (RE-ISSUE)
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ANACONDAS
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	13 GOING ON 30
CINEMA-12	MINDHUNTERS
CINEMA-14	THE TERMINAL
CINEMA-15	FENG SHUI
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
(LAS PIÑAS)	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
CINEMA-1	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
CINEMA-2	GARFIELD
CINEMA-4	VILLAGE
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

BOY ABUNDA

Boy Abunda for Great Image

GREAT Image Digital Photo Shop has appropriately chosen King of Talk Boy Abunda as its first-ever celebrity endorser.

After all, the host of "The Buzz," "Kontrobersyal" and PCBA ("Private Conversations with Boy Abunda") has been a top-notch star builder, publicity whiz and image maker even before he became TV royalty.

Great Image owners Bob and Toots Palomo explain that Boy Abunda is the perfect choice to endorse their company, which already has 25 outlets all over Luzon and four company-owned Picture! Picture! shops.

Boy, the couple says, embodies the company's slogan: "Ilabas ang totoo!"

"It's an inspiring and empowering message," says Boy. "It goes straight to the heart of the matter. It's just what we need in these troubling times. It's bold and brave, but it also doesn't take itself too seriously. It reminds everyone that it's best to be true to oneself. That it's okay to have fun. That you don't have to take everything that you do in life so earnestly."

The message is particularly relevant to young Filipinos, he says, "because they are so engrossed with self-image." It is enjoining people, he says, to be happy with the truth, to be satisfied with themselves.

It's a lesson Boy himself has learned to master through the years. "I used to say that I hated my nose, but it's what I have. What can I do? Eventually I realized you don't have to be picture-perfect to be happy. By accepting yourself, warts and all, you become more beautiful in the end.

"Who you are is great," he adds. "Who you are is excellent."

This is precisely the mantra of Great Image, one of the pioneers in the digital photo industry. Its 25 branches are at all SM malls, Robinsons, Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall, Riverbanks Center, Market! Market! in Taguig and soon at SM City Batangas. Its services include family portraits, child photography, graduation photos, school/corporate photography, ID/passport, glamour shots, reproduction/restoration of old photos, enlargements, and video and

BOY/A39

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Annual National Consumer's Quality Award 2003

Family Consumers Choice Award 2003

NOW SHOWING

GALLERIA

632-9115 to 16

Cinema	Movie	Schedule
CINEMA 1 THX	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING	11:10, 1:45, 4:20, 6:55, 9:30
2	13 GOING ON 30	10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
3	THE TERMINAL	11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
4	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING	11:40, 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00
5	FENG SHUI	10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
6	MINDHUNTERS	10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
7	GODSEND	12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
8	ANACONDAS	12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
9	THE NOTEBOOK	11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
10	DODGEBALL	11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00

MATINEE: Monday to Friday/ 10 am-4pm except holidays
Matinee Price: P80 for one level cinemas
Regular Price: P150 THX / P95/65 for two levels cinemas / P95 for one level cinemas

ERMITA

536-7809 to 12

Cinema	Movie	Schedule
1	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING	10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
2	MINDHUNTERS	10:35, 12.50, 3.05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50
3	13 GOING ON 30	1:30, 3:50, 6:10, 8:120, 10:00
4	ANACONDAS	10:40, 12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:40
5	DODGEBALL	11:00, 1:05, 3:15, 5:25, 7:35, 9:45
6	FENG SHUI	10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
7	THE TERMINAL	10:45, 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45

METRO EAST

682-8193/99 / 682-8280

Cinema	Movie	Schedule
1	MINDHUNTERS	11:10, 1:40, 4:10, 6:40, 9:10
2	DODGEBALL	10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00
3	THE TERMINAL	10:45, 1.15, 3.45, 6.15, 9.00
4	ANACONDAS	10.05, 12:05, 2:15, 4:25, 6:35, 9.00
5	THE NOTEBOOK	11:20, 1:40, 4.00, 6:20, 9:00
6	13 GOING ON 30	10.25, 12:50, 3:15, 5:40, 8:05, 10:30
7	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING	11:20, 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8.40, 10:30
8	FENG SHUI	10:10, 12:40, 3:10, 5:40, 8:10, 10:30

NOVALICHES

935-3220 / 31

Cinema	Movie
1	EXORCIST:THE BEGINNING
2	MINDHUNTERS
3	FENG SHUI
4	ANACONDAS
5	THE TERMINAL
6	13 GOING ON 30
7	EXORCIST:THE BEGINNING
8	DODGEBALL

Citisquare MALABON

288-0985/2575

Cinema	Movie
1	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
2	FENG SHUI
3	DODGEBALL
4	ANACONDAS

LIPA

757-3664 / 312-5870

Cinema	Movie
1	THE TOOL BOX MURDERS
2	THE STEPFORD WIVES
3	THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2
4	FENG SHUI
5	ANACONDAS

CAINTA

240-4661

Cinema	Movie
1	13 GOING ON 30
2	FENG SHUI
3	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
4	ANACONDAS

STA. ROSA

(049)837-0907

Cinema	Movie
1	ANACONDAS
2	13 GOING ON 30
3	FENG SHUI
4	THE TERMINAL
5	DODGEBALL

DASMARIÑAS

852-2125 / 416-4332

Cinema	Movie
1	HAUNTED SPIRITS 2
2	BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
3	FENG SHUI
4	TAG-INIT
5	DODGEBALL

ANGELES "NOW OPEN"

Cinema	Movie
1	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
2	FENG SHUI
3	THE TERMINAL
4	DODGEBALL

STARMILLS

St. Fernando Pampanga
875-1927 / 961-5270

Cinema	Movie
1	GODSEND
2	JANDARA
3	FENG SHUI
4	THE TERMINAL
5	ANACONDAS
6	EXORCIST THE BEGINNING

IMUS

471-8188 / 875-5858

Cinema	Movie
1	ANACONDAS
2	13 GOING ON 30
3	THE TERMINAL
4	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
5	FENG SHUI
6	HAUNTED SPIRITS 2

BACOLOD

441-0458/59

Cinema	Movie
1	ANACONDAS
2	FENG SHUI
3	THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2
4	THE STEPFORD WIVES
5	LAWS OF ATTRACTION
6	THE MISSING

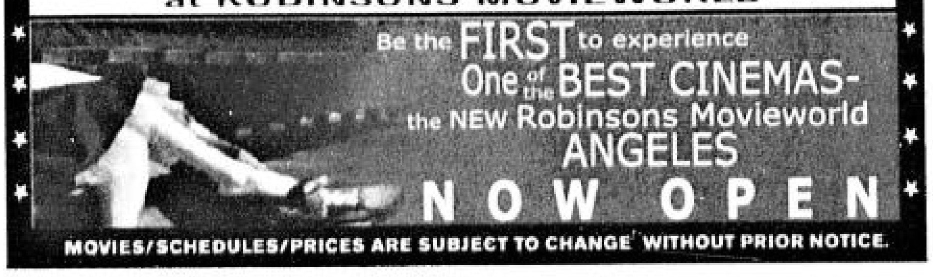
ILOILO

336-8070/78

Cinema	Movie
1	ANACONDAS
2	HAMOG
3	GODSEND
4	THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2
5	FENG SHUI
6	CONNIE AND CARLA

A TERRIFIC DATE MOVIE
13 going on 30

at ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD



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the NEW Robinsons Movieworld
ANGELES
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MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

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AYALA CINEMAS THX

Movies/schedules may change without prior notice. For verification call 729-7777

	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU
1	EXORCIST THE BEGINNING	13 GOING ON 30	13 GOING ON 30	GUARANTEED SEATS THE TERMINAL 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30	EXORCIST THE BEGINNING
2	13 GOING ON 30	EXORCIST THE BEGINNING	MINDHUNTERS	GUARANTEED SEATS EXORCIST THE BEGINNING 2:20, 4:45, 7:10, 9:35, 12:00	THE TERMINAL
3	FENG SHUI	THE TERMINAL	GUARANTEED SEATS EXORCIST 10:55, 1:20, 3:45, 6:10, 8:35, 11:00	GUARANTEED SEATS FENG SHUI 1:10, 3:30, 5:50, 8:10, 10:30	FENG SHUI
4	MINDHUNTERS	FENG SHUI	DODGEBALL	GUARANTEED SEATS THE NOTEBOOK 3:00, 5:45, 8:30, 11:15	SPARTAN
5	THE TERMINAL		THE TERMINAL	GUARANTEED SEATS 13 GOING ON 30 2:20, 4:35, 6:50, 9:05, 11:20	PRINCESS DIARIES 2
6			FENG SHUI		
7			THE NOTEBOOK		

GB1 GREENBELT 1

Cinema	Movie	Schedule
1	13 GOING ON 30	3:00, 5.15, 7:30,9.45
2	FENG SHUI	12 20, 2 40, 5 00,7 20,9 40

At the Activity Center

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	AYALA CENTER CEBU
BPI APPLIANCE MADNESS September 9 to 26, 2004	INTEL EXHIBIT September 18 and 19, 2004	PHIL. ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL TECHNOLOGISTS QUIZ BOWL September 18, 2004

ENTERTAINMENT LIVE!

GREENBELT 2	GREENBELT 3
GREENBELT 2: MUSIC STYLES featuring ACOUSTIC JIVE W/ MAY BAYOT September 18, 7:00 to 10.00pm	NEO CORPO ART EXHIBIT Sept. 16-30 (Greenbelt 3 Lobby)

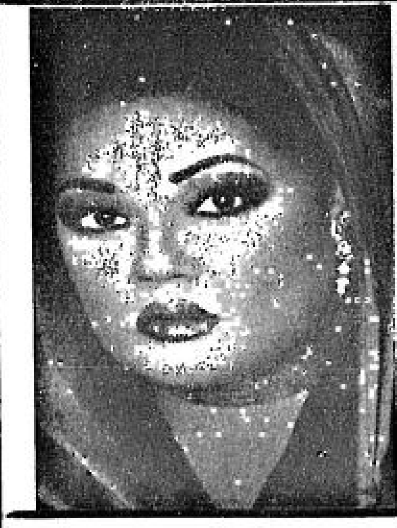
Onstage
REPERTORY PHILIPPINES presents PINOCCHIO
at REP's GLOBE THEATER - August 7 to December 12, 2004

EXPO
TRADE HALL FOR EXHIBITS, EVENTS AND MORE!
For inquiries and bookings, please call 750-4982 to 84

jennifer garner
For some, 13 feels like it was just yesterday
For Jenna, it was.
13 going on 30
A comedy for the kid in all of us
NOW SHOWING
COLUMBIA PICTURES

FREE Glitter Tattoo & Bead Shop at the Glorietta 4, Greenbelt 3 and Alabang Town Center Cinema lobby from 1-4 PM on Sept 18 & 19.

Just present your 13 Going On 30 movie ticket or a P200 new load /re-load Timezone Powercard at the Family Day booth.



Angela Bofill Live!

AYALA CENTER MAKATI
September 30, 6:30pm
Glorietta Activity Center

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
October 1, 7:00pm
Corte De Las Palmas

AYALA CENTER CEBU
October 2, 8:30pm
Lagoon

FREE ADMISSION
Reserved seats for the first 50 Discount Plus cardholders

For inquiries, please call the Customer Service Hotlines: Glorietta: 752-7272, Greenbelt: 757-4853
Alabang Town Center: 842-2782, 772-1860
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the biggest THX® operator in the country
leads you back to where evil was born
in a way no ordinary theater can.

- HIGH PICTURE QUALITY to accurately & clearly witness the horrifying movie sequences
- AMAZING ACOUSTICS to hear all the fantastic sound effects so that every seat is the "best in the house"
- BEST EQUIPMENT to give precise & realistic movie-going experience

Watch
EXORCIST
THE BEGINNING
at Ayala's THX® Cinemas
For screening schedule, call 729-7777
MTRCB Rating Restricted 13

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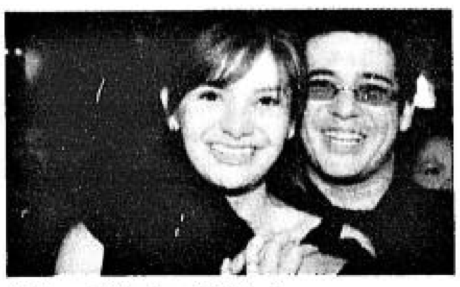
AYALA CENTER GLORIETTA • Greenbelt
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
AYALA CENTER CEBU

LoveMall!

ABS-CBN flies high with 'Lipad Tayo, Kapamilya'


AGA and Charlene Muhlach

MARICEL Soriano and Kris Aquino

GABUNADA

PRESIDENT-COO Cito Alejandro (left) and Chair-CEO Eugenio Lopez III flank Optra winner Joy Morales. PHOTOS BY MANDY NAVASERO

ABS-CBN recently hosted a grand promo expo at the PICC called "Lipad Tayo, Kapamilya" to reinforce its ties with its advertisers.

The event was also one of the network's biggest and most successful collaborative efforts, which saw all the divisions and subsidiaries working together.

The Forum of the PICC became the "ABS-CBN International Airport," where guests were welcomed by the airport workforce, with the network's employees playing flight attendants, pilots, cabin crew and porters.

Divisions and subsidiaries constructed theme booths representing the sections of an international airport.

The Lifestyle Network built a booth designed as a VIP lounge. The Regional Network Group (RNG) brought an in-house cultural and entertainment ensemble to entertain the guests, with music provided by instrumentalists and professional performers.

ABS-CBN Global flew in boxes of Krispy Kreme from the US and dates from the Middle East. Studio 23 was the duty free store, supplying wines and dry goods, while at the same time entertaining the guests by promoting the station's shows.

A beauty spa set up by ABS-CBN Publishing gave free haircuts and facial treatments to guests. Star Magic (formerly Talent Center) showcased its talents and celebrity endorsers, while Star Cinema had a makeshift airplane.

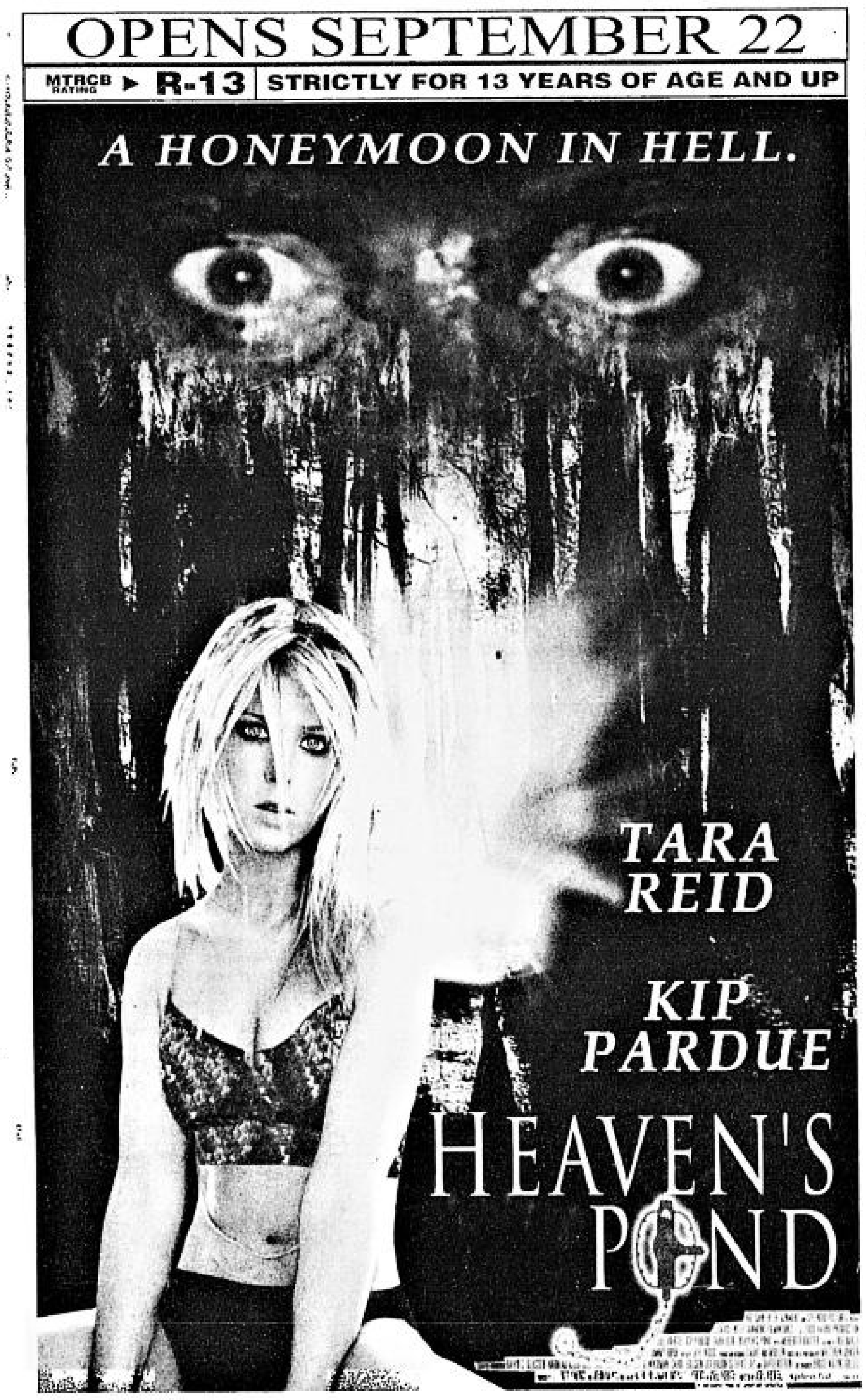
Other booths were set up by Star Records, ABS-CBN Interactive, My Only Radio, ABS-CBN News Channel (ANC), ABS-CBN Licensing, dzMM and dwRR.

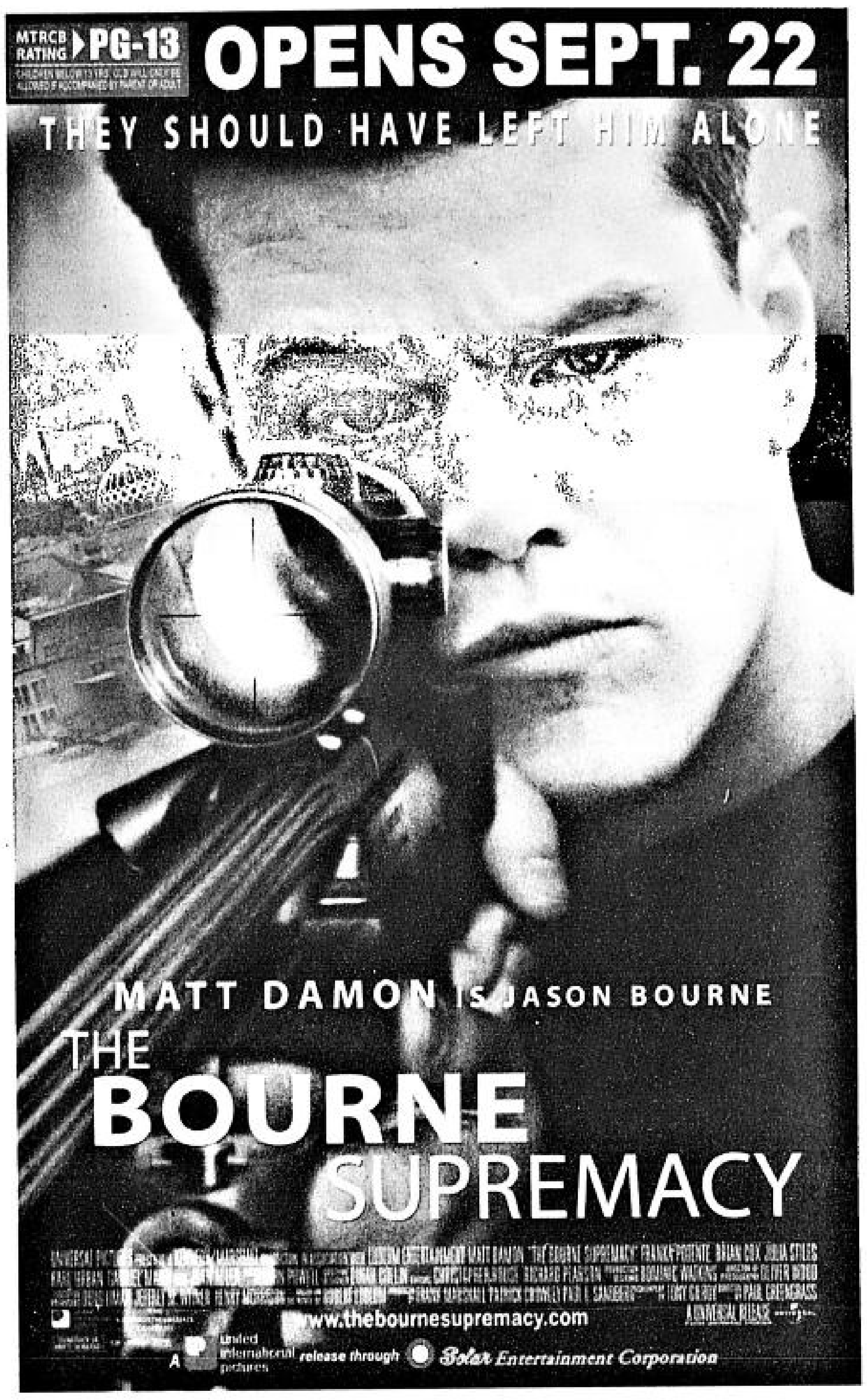
The network also presented a show featuring today's hottest stars and hosted by Edu Manzano and Ai-Ai de las Alas. Among the stars who performed were the Star Circle Quest teen finalists led by Hero Angeles and Sandara Park who sang with Piolo Pascual, with maestro Ryan Cayabyab. Even teleserye character Dugong of "Marina" came on stage in full costume.

The advertisers mingled with the stars of the network, including the king of comedy, Dolphy, Maricel Soriano, Cesar Montano, Kris Aquino, Aga Muhlach, Charlene Gonzales, Diether Ocampo, Jericho Rosales and Kristine Hermosa.

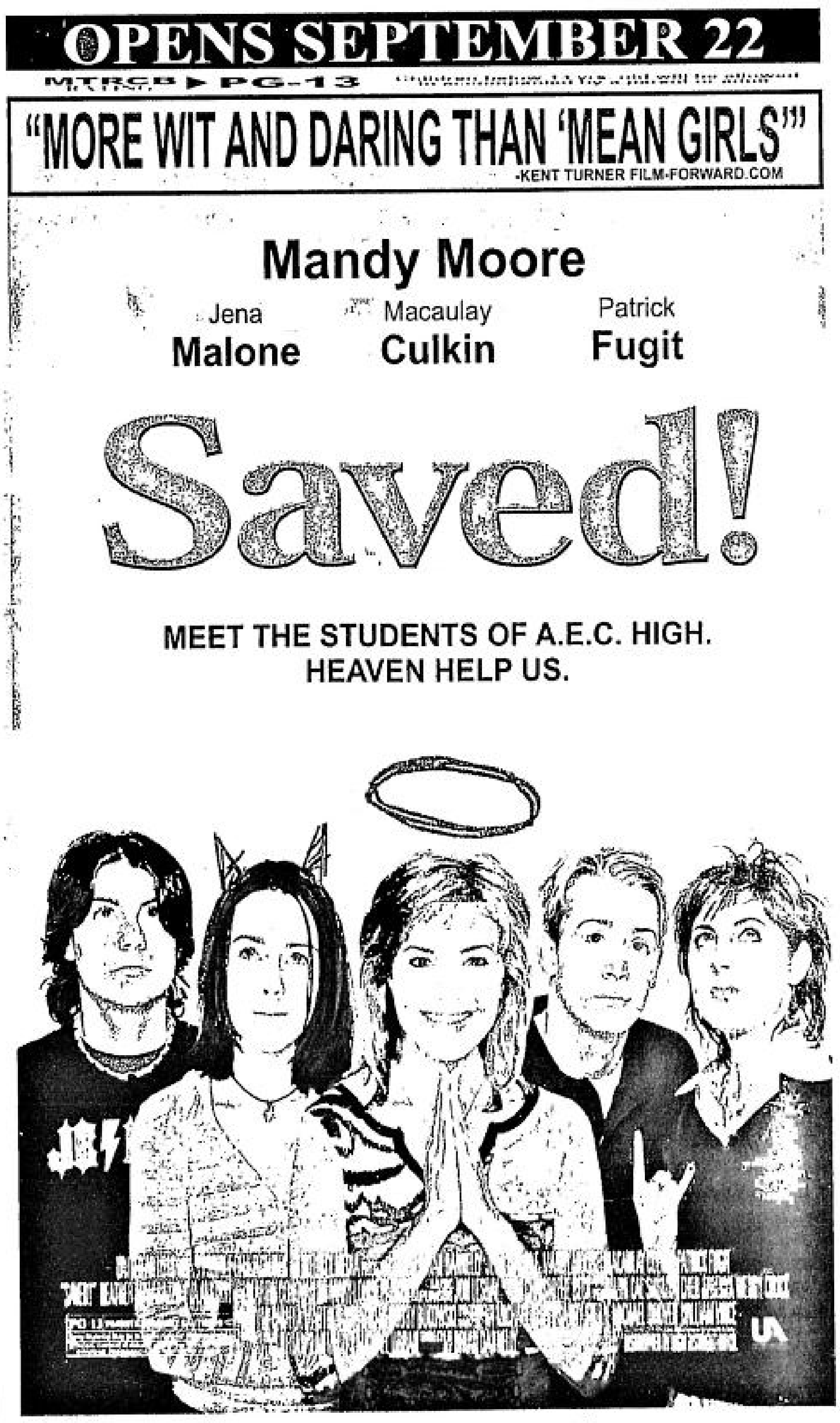
Prizes were given away such as trips to the United States, Europe, Bangkok and Boracay. The lucky grand prize winner brought home a brand-new Chevrolet Optra.

"Lipad Tayo, Kapamilya" was crafted by the ABS-CBN sales and marketing team, led by its senior vice president Nicanor C. Gabunada Jr., vice presidents Orlando Galang, David Dominguez and Alden Castañeda, with assistant vice president Lawrence Tan who spearheaded the project.


OPENS SEPTEMBER 22
MTRCB RATING ▸ R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP
A HONEYMOON IN HELL.
TARA REID
KIP PARDUE
HEAVEN'S POND


MTRCB RATING ▸ PG-13
OPENS SEPT. 22
THEY SHOULD HAVE LEFT HIM ALONE
MATT DAMON IS JASON BOURNE
THE BOURNE SUPREMACY
www.thebournesupremacy.com
A United International Pictures release through Solar Entertainment Corporation

COMING SOON
THE WORLD WILL TREMBLE
Jude LAW
Gwyneth PALTROW
and Angelina JOLIE
SKY CAPTAIN and the WORLD of TOMORROW


OPENS SEPTEMBER 22
MTRCB ▸ PG-13
"MORE WIT AND DARING THAN 'MEAN GIRLS'"
-KENT TURNER FILM-FORWARD.COM
Mandy Moore
Jena Malone
Macaulay Culkin
Patrick Fugit
Saved!
MEET THE STUDENTS OF A.E.C. HIGH.
HEAVEN HELP US.

Jericho celebrates on 'ASAP Mania'

THIS Sunday, the "Full Circle" segment of "ASAP Mania" features the birthday celebration of Jericho Rosales and another dance showdown by ABS-CBN Star Magic artists.

Echo will do his own version of Lenny Kravitz's "Are You Gonna Go My Way" with the Take 1 Band and the Hotlegs.

The other production number features Mark Butler, RJ Oliva, Felix and Dominic Roco dancing to "Bubblin'" by Blue with Tanya Leanne Scaife, Isabel Blaesi, Helga Marie Krapf, Kris Marcia Cruz, Carla Humphries, Justin Gascon, Pia Romero, Hazel Ann Mendoza and Jill Yulo.

The "Full Circle" has attracted a loyal following since it was launched on "ASAP Mania."

'Star Idol Search' finals

THE THREE-MONTHLONG hunt for the next singing superstar ends today in the grand finals of the "Star Idol Search," at the Trade Hall of the Metropolis Star in Alabang, Muntinlupa.

An invitational cocktail at the poolside of the Starland Theme Park and Resort on the fourth floor of the mall precedes the program.

The grand finalists are Fil-Am boy Paul Ruprecht, 15, from San Diego, California; student Loverine Fermino, 18, of Navotas; and Rhea Cruz, 23, from Muntinlupa. They bested six other semifinalists after two rounds of eliminations held at Starmall Edsa and Starmall Las Piñas.

The judges were award-winning song-writer-composer Dero Pedero, artist-stylist Carminia Pavia, record producer and company manager of the internationally-acclaimed Philippine Madrigal Singers Alfred Samonte, deputy director of the University of the Philippines Film Institute Ed Lejano, and former beauty queen and project director of the Miss Earth and Miss Philippines beauty pageants Peachy Veneracion.

Interior designer Cocoy Cordoba will design the stage for the grand finals. Admission is free. For inquiries, call Aly at 850-3845.

Boy Abunda...

From page A37

photo coverage.

Aside from being featured in billboards at the corner of Kamuning and Edsa, on Quezon Avenue, and at Edsa-Magallanes, Boy and Great Image also plan to go on a campus tour to spread the message of "Ilabas ang totoo!" and hold empowering panel discussions.

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX
3 Dolby FENG SHUI 11:35 am 1:55 pm 4:15 pm 6:35 pm 8:55 pm
4 SDDS EXORCIST 12:10 pm 2:25 pm 4:40 pm 6:55 pm 9:10 pm
5 dts ANACONDAS 11:35 am 1:55 pm 4:15 pm 6:35 pm 8:55 pm
6 Dolby THE TERMINAL 12:35 pm 3:20 pm 6:05 pm 8:50 pm
7 Dolby MIND HUNTERS 12:45 pm 3:15 pm 5:45 pm 8:15 pm
NEW FIESTA CARNIVAL
OPEN TODAY 4 PM to 10 PM
ARANETA COLISEUM
Sep 19 ATENEO vs LA SALLE
Sep 22 UPHDS vs P C U
Sep 23 UAAP CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS
Sep 24 NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS (if nec.)
Sep 25 BLUE Live in Manila
For tickets, call TicketNet at 911-5555

"BLAIR WITCH MEETS JAWS"

-Premiere

A word of advice to divers from an Ichthyological Society in Florida. When encountering aggressive sharks in open water, "...orient back-to-back with your partner and gradually rise to the surface and the safety of your boat...". But what if your boat has left you? And what if you don't have anything to stave off repeated attacks by these vicious predators that will not stop until they've gotten a piece of you?

Such is the premise of Open Water, the toast of this year's Sundance Film Festival. Described by some as "Blair Witch of the open seas", the film centers on a diving couple (played by Blanchard Ryan and Daniel Travis) who have been inadvertently left behind by their boat. Alone and adrift, they soon find themselves surrounded and besieged by the meanest, fiercest sharks.

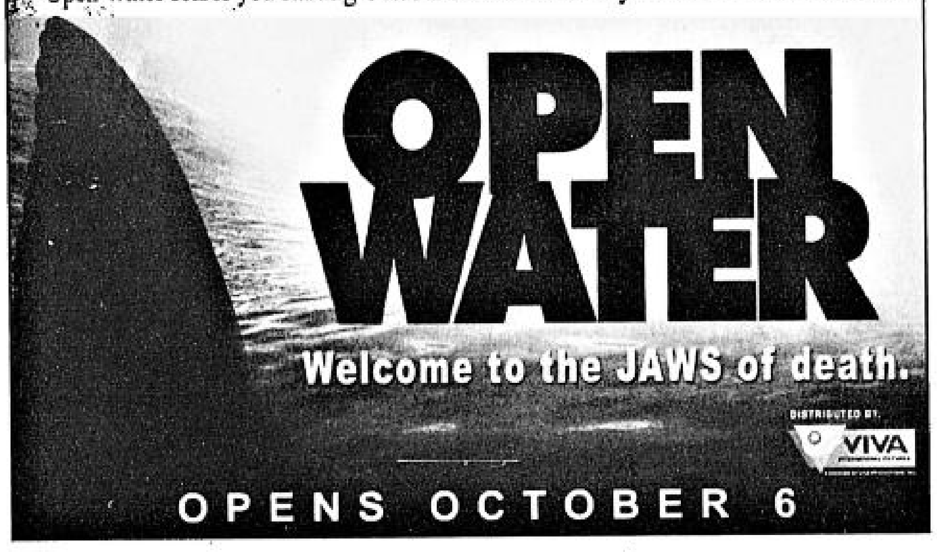
Open Water has defied conventional Hollywood filmmaking in more ways than you can imagine. For one its budget falls way below the radar of a typical suspense romp of its kind. But more than that, perish all thoughts of computer generated imagery or mechanical models (like those used in "Jaws") while viewing the shark attack sequences in this movie.

That's because the sharks here are for real, folks.

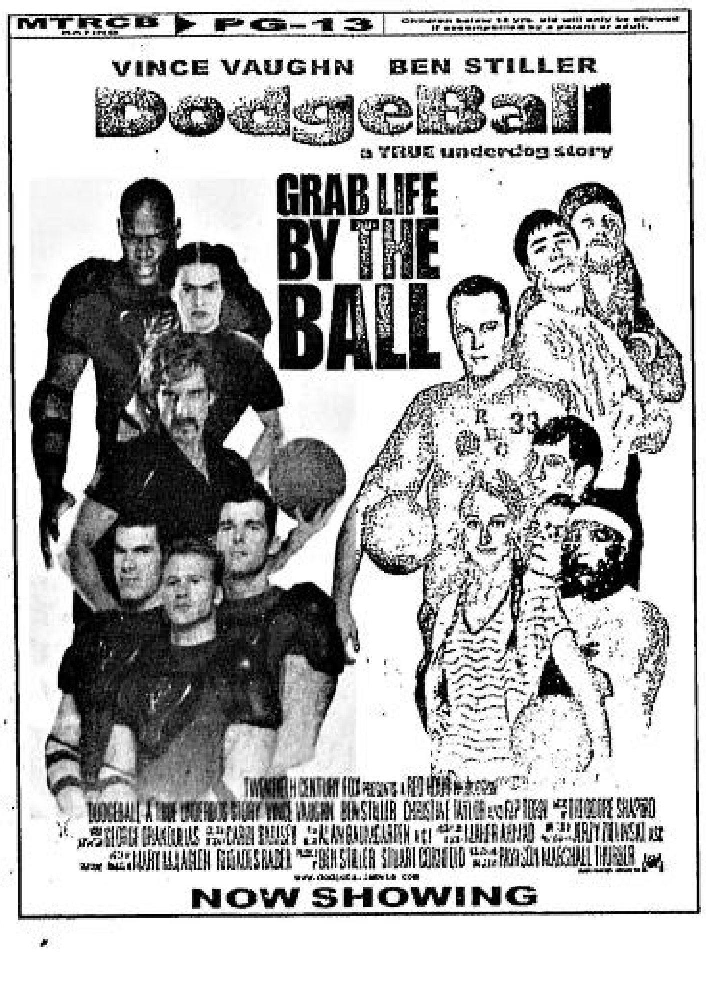
Talk about suspension of disbelief.

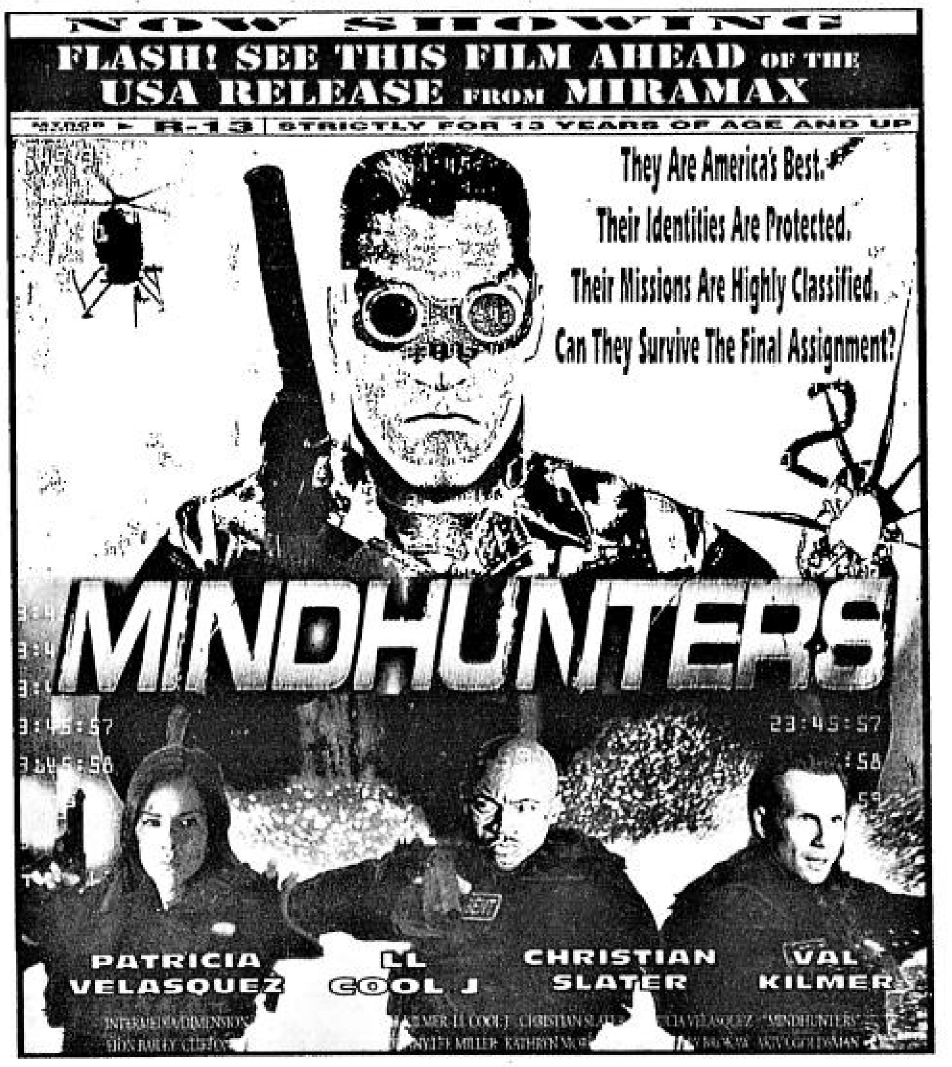
The Sundance sensation was quickly snapped up by Lions Gate. On its first week of wide release it landed among the top ten grossers of the week in North America.

Open Water scares you starting October 6. It is released by Viva International Pictures.

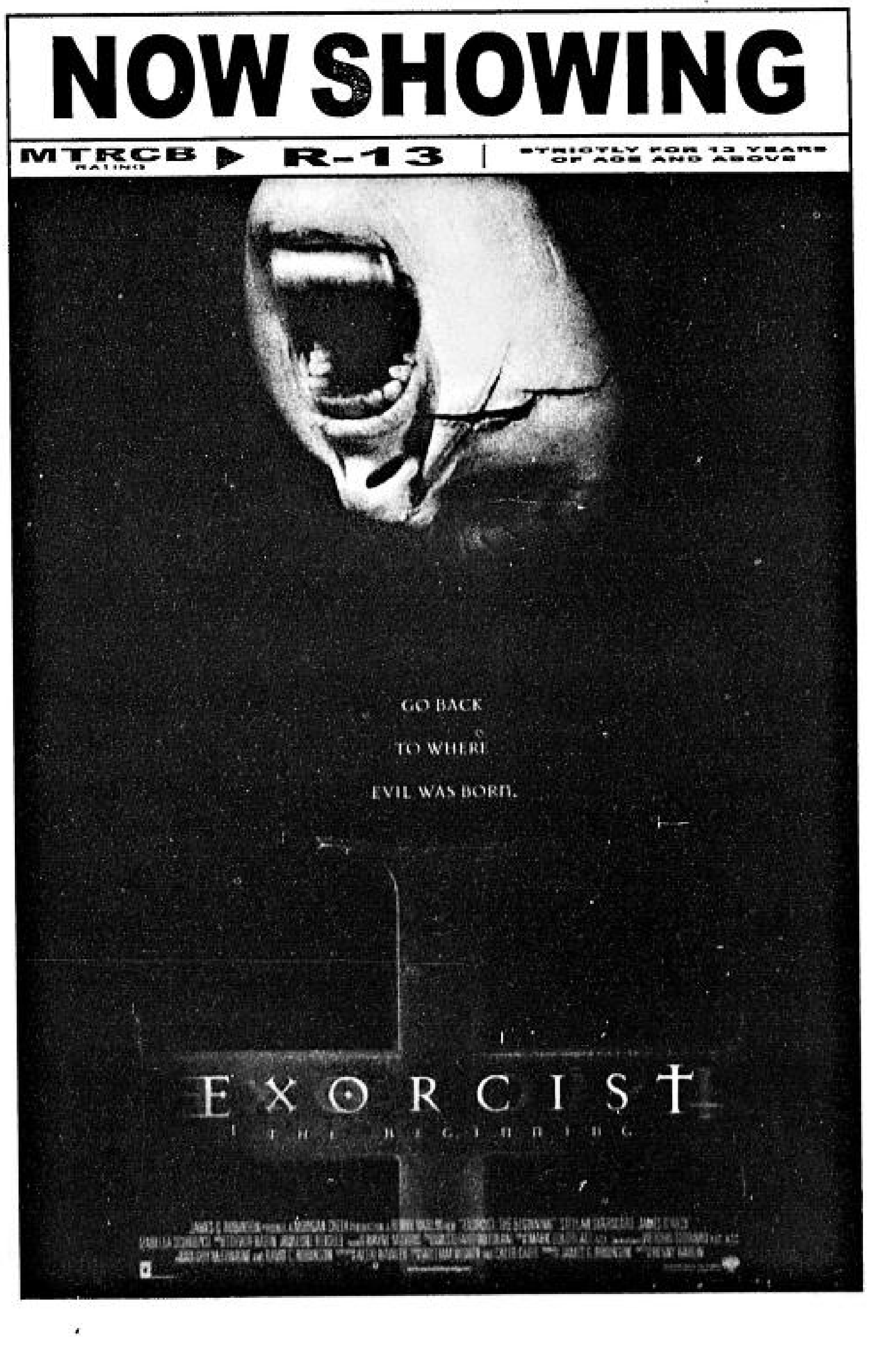

OPEN WATER
Welcome to the JAWS of death.
DISTRIBUTED BY:
VIVA
OPENS OCTOBER 6

A Comedy about a Second Chance at First Love!
5TH '1ST LOVE' REWIND DAY
MTRCB ▶ PG-13
Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
"A TERRIFIC DATE MOVIE.
"...THE BEST ROMANTIC COMEDY OF THE YEAR!"
"THUMBS UP! SEE IT!"
"A FEEL GOOD COMEDY THAT WILL KEEP YOU SMILING."
"YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A TEEN TO ENJOY '13 GOING ON 30.'"
jennifer garner
13 going on 30
Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES


MTRCB ▶ PG-13
Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
VINCE VAUGHN BEN STILLER
DodgeBall
a TRUE underdog story
GRAB LIFE BY THE BALL
NOW SHOWING


NOW SHOWING
FLASH! SEE THIS FILM AHEAD OF THE USA RELEASE FROM MIRAMAX
MTRCB ▶ R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP
They Are America's Best.
Their Identities Are Protected.
Their Missions Are Highly Classified.
Can They Survive The Final Assignment?
MINDHUNTERS
23:45:57
PATRICIA VELASQUEZ
LL COOL J
CHRISTIAN SLATER
VAL KILMER

MTRCB RATING G FOR GENERAL AUDIENCE
2ND WEEK!
HANKS AND SPIELBERG DELIVER ANOTHER WINNER!
"Some people may find this film a little sappy. But if it's this good, who cares."
Rito P. Asilo - Phil. Daily Inquirer, Sept. 11, 2004
Life is waiting.
Tom Hanks
Catherine Zeta-Jones
The Terminal
release through Solar Entertainment Corporation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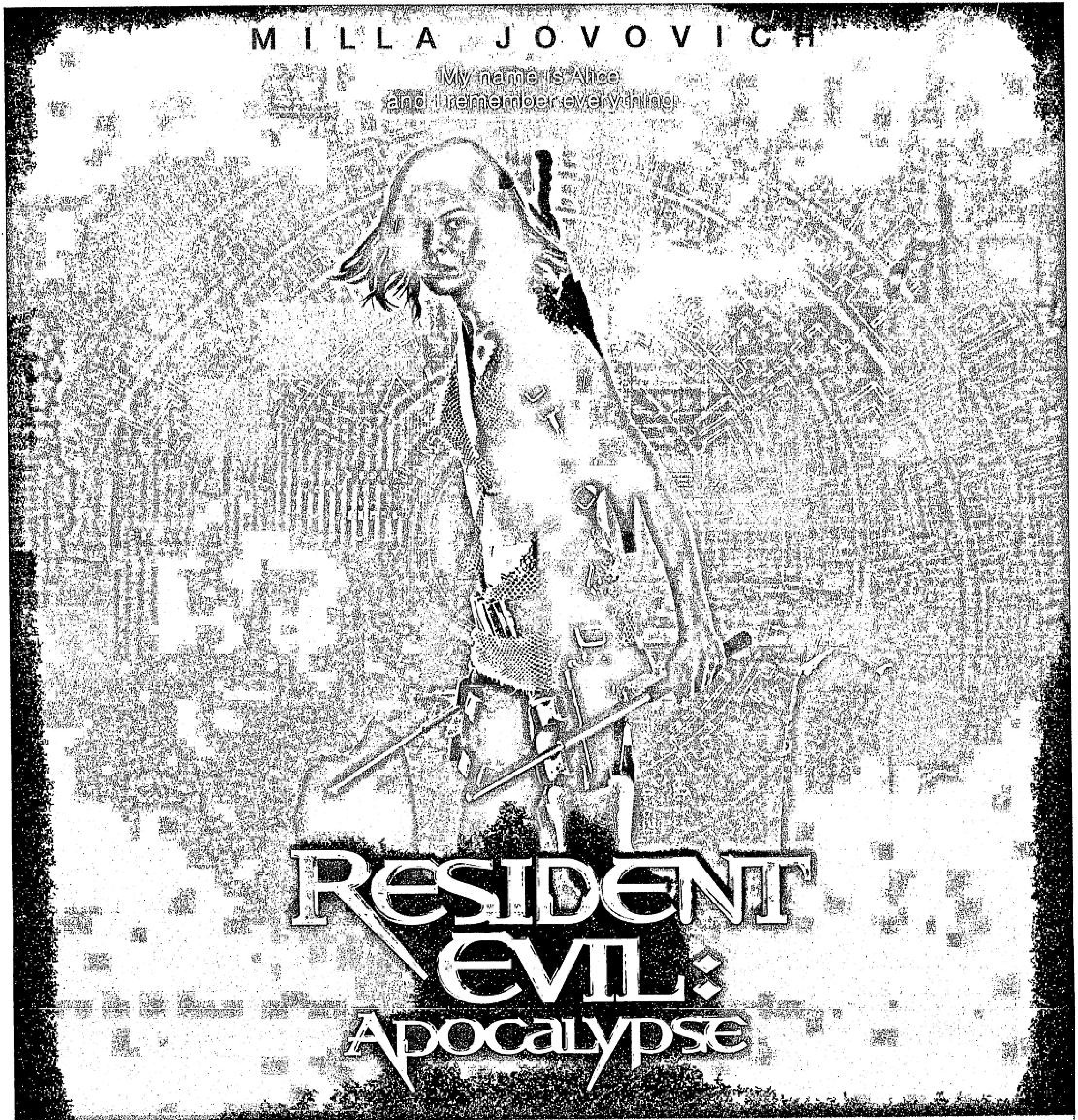

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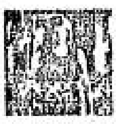
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RER5	800	Saliva
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Jennifer Garner, from nerdy to cool

By Janet Susan R. Nepales
LA Correspondent

LOS ANGELES—"If you told me when I was 13 that I would be walking the red carpet when I turned 30, I would have told you, 'No way! That would be totally so cool!'" exclaims Jennifer Garner.

A self-proclaimed geek when she was in junior high, Garner, now 32, describes her teenage years as "the most awkward, uncomfortable years of my life."

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

She tells us as we interview her at the L'Ermitage Hotel in Beverly Hills, "I wore big dorky glasses, was tall and reed-like (she is 5-foot-8 tall) and gangly looking. In the high school yearbook where they choose the prettiest and the most likely to succeed, I didn't get voted anywhere at all!"

Effervescent, funny and ebullient, Garner ("Daredevil," "Pearl Harbor," "Catch Me If You Can") reminds us of a young Geena Davis or Julia Roberts.

The nerdy girl from Houston who was raised in Charleston, West Virginia, in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains, has indeed gone a long way. She is a Golden Globe awardee for best actress in a drama series for her performance as secret government agent Sydney Bristow in the top television show, "Alias."

Happy geeks

Dressed casually in a white top and blue denims and wearing no make-up at all, Garner looks younger than her 32 years, especially with her hair pulled up in a ponytail and accented with bangs.

In her first major solo starrer, the comedy hit, "13 Going on 30," she portrays Jenna Rink, a nerdy 8th grader in 1987 who gets her wish for adult fame and popularity when she wakes up one morning to discover she's 30 years old, the editor of a top fashion magazine, has a swanky Manhattan apartment and a hunky star ice hockey player for a boyfriend. Complications arise, though, as she finds herself still unhappy and wanting to get a second chance at first love.

Asked what she liked to do when she was 13, Garner, the second of three daughters of a retired chemical engineer dad and a former college professor mom, recalls, "I was very much into ballet, theater, the marching band, the chorus, and swimming. I played the piano, sax and violin. I had great girlfriends but we were not part of the hip and cool group. But we really did not care. We were happy nerds!"

She adds, "I didn't wear cool clothes ever. I just wanted to grow up, learn how to drive, carry a conversation and wear contact lenses!"

Sleepover

She admits that when she was debating about whether to do the Gary Winick-directed "13 Going on 30" movie or not, "I asked around the 'Alias' set what they thought I should do. One of the crew members told me, 'Jennifer, please, when the camera's rolling, you're 30, but when they say cut, you're 13!"

To prepare herself for the role, Garner had to join a sleepover composed of 13-year-old girls. She recalls the night: "It was so much fun! We did the Ouija board. We called up spirits and that caused a lot of screaming. We made prank calls to boys in their class. But I

JENNIFER/ A-42

EX-DORK. "I wore big dorky glasses, was tall and reed-like and gangly," says Garner, who's actually 32. "In the high school yearbook where they choose the prettiest and the most likely to succeed, I didn't get voted anywhere at all."

Director lets fans in on 'King Kong' secrets

WELLINGTON, New Zealand—Movie fans who can't wait for Peter Jackson's multimillion-dollar remake of "King Kong" can log on to the Internet to watch the gorilla thriller as it is being made.

JACKSON

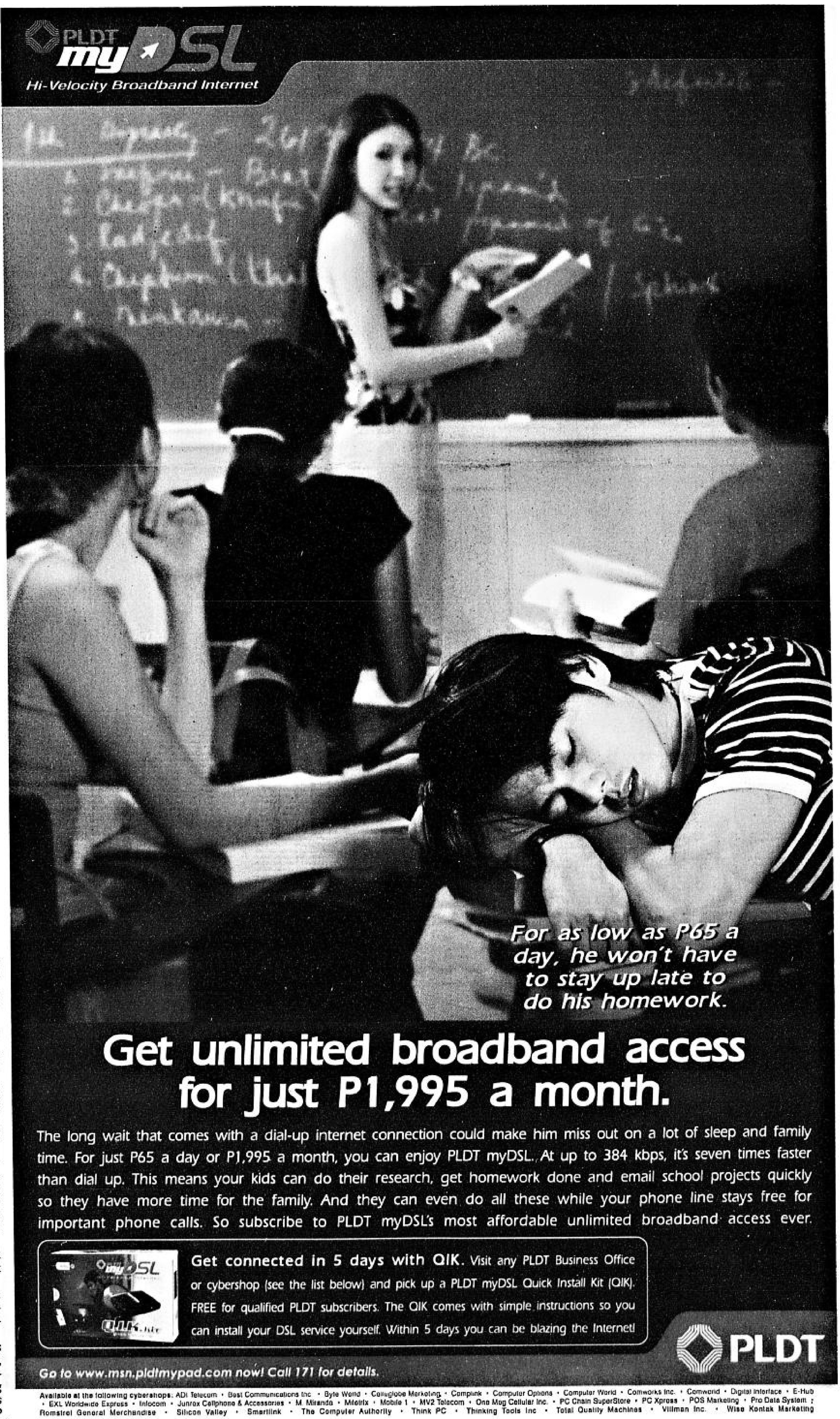
A new website, www.kongisking.net, maintained by fans of the Academy Award-winning director, features online video clips of the normally media-shy Jackson on set with actors and film crew.

Production diaries and director commentaries often appear as bonus material on DVD releases of major movies, but this marks one of the first times a director has unveiled the creative process before the film makes it to movie theaters.

In one clip, actors Adrien Brody and Jack Black are shown staggering on board a giant freight ship in rough seas.

"We want to let anyone that's interested (in on) just a few little secrets," the shaggy-haired Jackson is shown telling Black in another excerpt.

Jackson, 42, won three Academy Awards for his celebrated "Lord of the Rings" trilogy, which bagged 17 Oscars in total. His star-studded remake of the 1933 classic "King Kong" will be released by Universal Pictures in December 2005. *AP*



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Jennifer Garner, from nerdy to cool

From page A-41

was like 'Hey guys, this is embarrassing!' We ate so much junk food in the middle of the night that it gives me a stomachache just thinking about it.

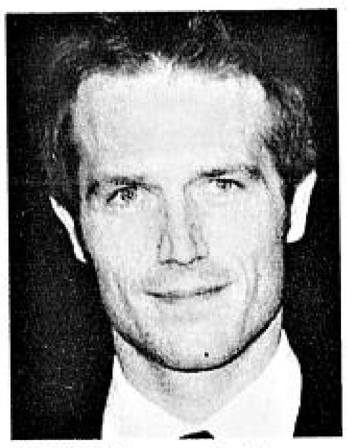
"The funny thing was, I joined them to make some (cinnamon crackers filled with melted marshmallows and a chocolate filling), then I went back to the couch and went to sleep. When I woke up, the girls were laughing at me because they thought that was the funniest thing they ever saw!"

Director Winick ("Tadpole") admits one of the reasons why he wanted to do the film was because of Garner. He confesses, "Jennifer was a huge reason why I wanted to do this movie. She is both vulnerable and strong which makes her perfect as Jenna Rink. Her performance in this movie exceeded my expectations."

Physical comedy

Variety writes of Garner's performance: "Garner grabs attention with equal measures of giggly girlish exuberance and anxious-adolescent befuddlement. It's not terribly surprising to see that, after three seasons of acrobatic butt-kicking on TV's 'Alias' and her Elektra-fying superheroics in last year's 'Daredevil,' the fetching actress is exceptionally adept at physical comedy. What is surprising, and delightful, is the full-tilt energy and resourceful expressiveness she brings to conveying the illusion of an ungainly adolescent trapped inside a mature adult's body."

Garner points out that it was her director, Winick, who helped her transition to physical comedy because "he gave me free rein."



VARTAN, her current date

Hollywood Reporter notes, "The pace is quick, thanks not just to Winick's direction but to Garner's physicality as she romps through scenes at the breakneck speed of a teenager rather than a sophisticated New York woman."

Divorced a year ago from Scott Foley, her former co-star on the TV series "Felicity," Garner has moved on with her life since the split and is dating Michael Vartan, 35, a fellow actor on "Alias."

Since "13 Going on 30" is also about second chances, we ask her what she would change in her life if she got another chance.

The down-to-earth Garner replies, "There are things that happened that I wish hadn't happened. But ultimately, you just have to let it go and go forward.

"So I would probably say, no, I wouldn't change anything in my life because I learn from everything that happens to me, good or bad. As my mother would say, 'You are responsible for your own happiness.' So thank goodness you can't go back and change things."

Does she ever want to go back to being 13 again? Garner quickly replies, "I wouldn't want to go back to being 13." She pauses and then adds, "But I would love to go back to living with my mom."

ALIAS GRACEFUL. Variety called her performance "surprising" and "delightful."

Oprah plays Santa in September

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THERE'S just no stopping—and topping—**Oprah Winfrey** and her awesome generosity. Oprah's TV show is famous for gifting its studio audience with all sorts of freebies and goodies that make practically every day Christmas for the lucky holders of studio passes to the show.

Recently, however, Oprah topped even herself with her most generous show to date: To usher in her new TV season, Oprah gave away brand-new cars to 11 hysterically happy people.

That was already a TV first —imagine, 11 cars given away in only one telecast?—but Oprah didn't stop there.

All of the other members of the studio audience were given little boxes, and when they opened them, they discovered to their screaming, screeching glee that each of them had also won a brand-new car!

All in all, 276 cars were given away on "Oprah's" season-opener that day! How much did Oprah's Super Santa bonanza cost? A whopping $7 million!

Everyone is praising Oprah for raising the bar for generosity on TV. She did more than make 276 people happy, she encouraged many others to also try to be selfless and giving.

We don't necessarily have to give people expensive gifts. It's more than enough to make their day with less pricey expressions of our love for them, and of our desire to make their lives happier.

After Oprah shared her unprecedented bonanza of automotive goodies, US TV critics wondered what she could do for an encore next year. Would she give away entire *islands*? Well, the billionaire TV host could afford to do it.

However, the truth of the matter is that most of her giveaways, no matter how expensive, are products of "exchange deals" with different manufacturers and advertisers, who are more than willing to part with some of their inventory for a simple mention on Oprah's very popular show, which is viewed by millions.

But that in no way detracts from Oprah's spirit of generosity, and its bracing effect not only on the recipients of her bounty, but also on her viewers in general.

She truly is one of a kind, and her impressed viewers respond by avidly, loyally and generously watching her show. If you want a formula for success *and* goodness, that's it!

What goes around, comes around. And, when it comes to Oprah Winfrey, what goes around is a whole lot of heart, hope—and happy times!

National Laity Week

IN CELEBRATION of National Laity Week (Sept. 19-26), the Council of the Laity of Novaliches (CLaN) is spearheading activities that emphasize the role of the laity in building up the church.

A Eucharistic Celebration with Bishop **Antonio R. Tobias** as the main celebrant will open the week's activities at the San Lorenzo Ruiz Parish in Tierra Verde, Tandang Sora, Quezon City. The first general assembly of the laity will be held on Sept. 25 at Mater Carmeli Auditorium, Sacred Heart Village, Novaliches, Quezon City.

Other activities include a formation seminar, jail visitation, medical-dental mission, youth projects and sportsfest.

Japanese film fest

THE EIGA Sai 2004 Japanese Film Festival unreels at the CCP's Dream Theater from Sept. 29 to Oct. 3.

Schedule: Sept. 29, 7 p.m., "Waterboys." Sept. 30, 4 p.m., "Don't

OPRAH/ A-43

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Oprah plays Santa . . .

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Look Back"; 7 p.m., "Twilight Samurai." Oct. 1, 4 p.m., "Give It All"; 7 p.m., "Hush." Oct. 2, 4 p.m., "Juvenile"; 7 p.m., "Waterboys." Oct. 3, 4 p.m., "Twilight Samurai"; 7 p.m., "Hush."

Call the Japan Foundation at 8116155 to 58.

Vhong is Totoy Bibbo

DANCER-COMEDIAN **Vhong Navarro** has come up with a new album, "Totoy Bibbo," which has been topping radio countdowns nationwide. Like Vhong's first hit, "Pamela," the carrier is composed by **Christian Martinez.** "Totoy Bibbo," released by Star Records, is available on CDs.

'Survivor: Vanuatu'

STUDIO 23 will air the season premiere of "Survivor: Vanuatu" at 8:30 p.m. on Sept. 19. Subsequent episodes of the show will be telecast Sundays at 7 p.m. The latest "Survivor" challenge involves 18 new castaways, and is said to be the toughest season to date.

Art exhibit at Mario's

MARIO'S restaurant at 191 Tomas Morato Ave., Quezon City, is hosting "8: An Artists' Collective," an exhibit featuring the works of **Art Bermudo, Bien Benitez, Jeps Belen, Jo Austria, Lindslee, Michelle Lim, Sam Penaso** and **Tom Daquioag.**

The exhibit opens at 6 p.m. on Sept. 28. It will be held to raise funds for the Sagip Buhay Medical Foundation Inc. Call 7240196.

3 discs of Sinatra classics

OL' BLUE EYES

LISTENERS could be forgiven for thinking that in the long and illustrious recording career of Frank Sinatra, he recorded every great song that was ever written.

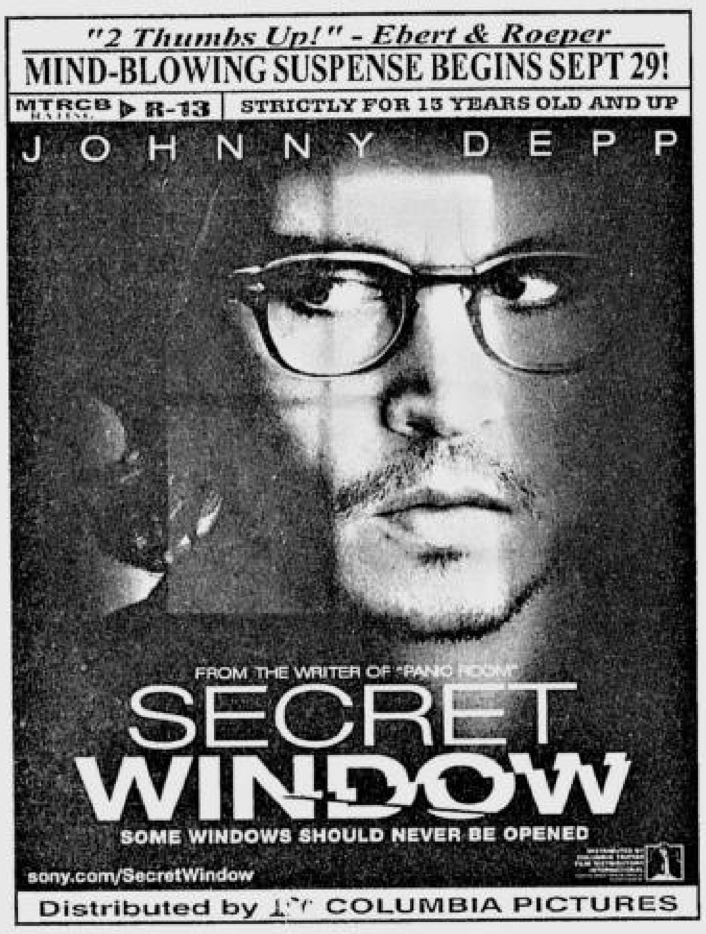
So vast was Sinatra's output that it would be difficult to think of a major composer or lyricist whose work he did not sing at one time or another: Berlin, Kern, Gershwin, Porter, Rodgers and Hart (and Hammerstein), Ellington, Arlen, Mercer, Styne, Cahn, Van Heusen and many others, as well as, in the latter years, Sondheim, Bacharach, Stevie Wonder, Neil Diamond, Billy Joel and the Beatles.

Sinatra's relationship with Capitol Records, from 1953 to 1961, remains the high point of his career and its products are still hailed as the finest body of work ever produced by a popular singer. "Frank Sinatra, The Platinum Collection" is an essential collection of some of the greatest songs he ever recorded, and is compiled with the full approval and co-operation of the Frank Sinatra Estate.

"Frank Sinatra, The Platinum Collection" is a three-disc compilation now available in the country. Among the Sinatra classics in the compilation are "Come Fly With Me," "I've Got You Under My Skin," "That Old Black Magic," "All the Way," "Fools Rush In," "Three Coins in the Fountain," "High Hopes," "Chicago";

"My Funny Valentine," "The Lady is a Tramp," "Moonlight in Vermont," "Night and Day";

"You Make Me Feel So Young," "Pennies from Heaven," "April in Paris," "Someone to Watch Over Me," "In the Wee Small Hours of the Morning," and many others.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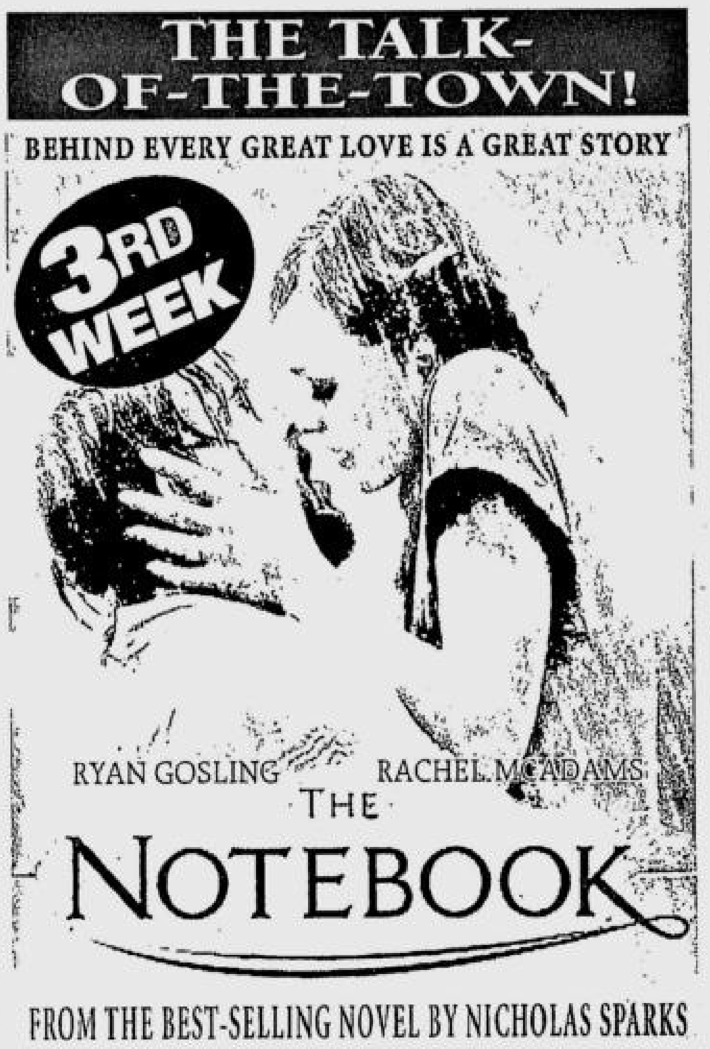
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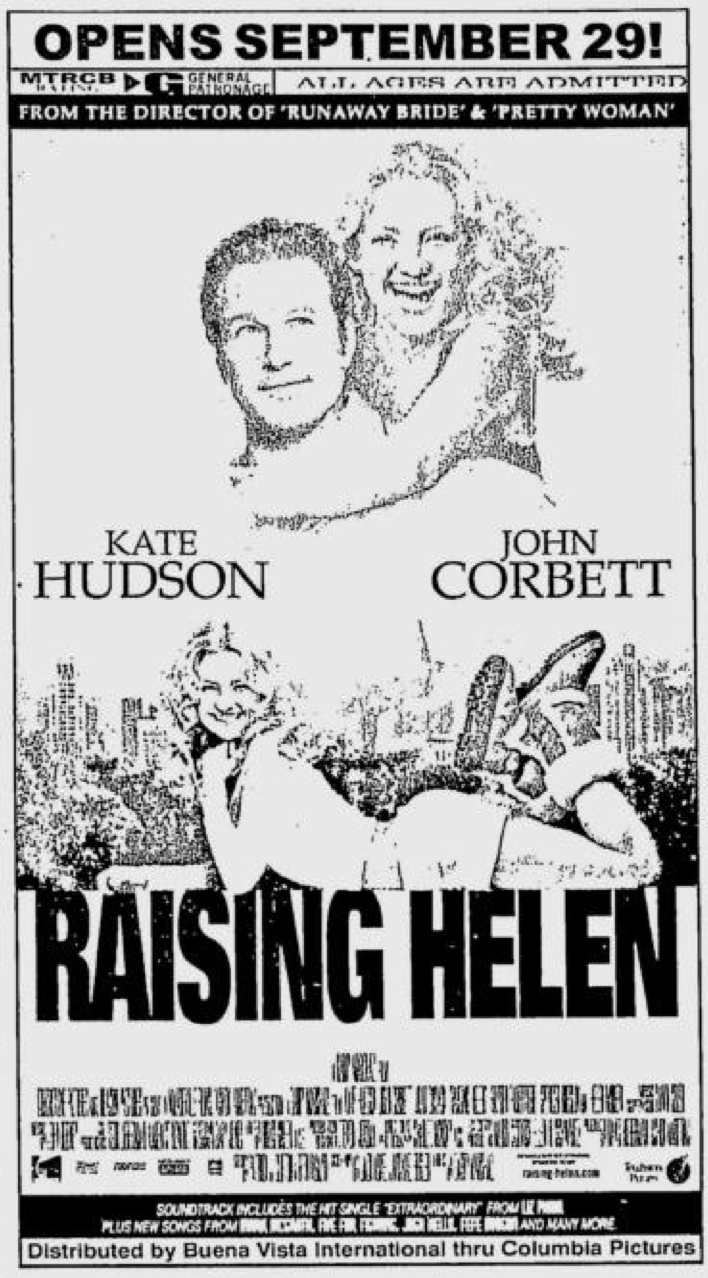
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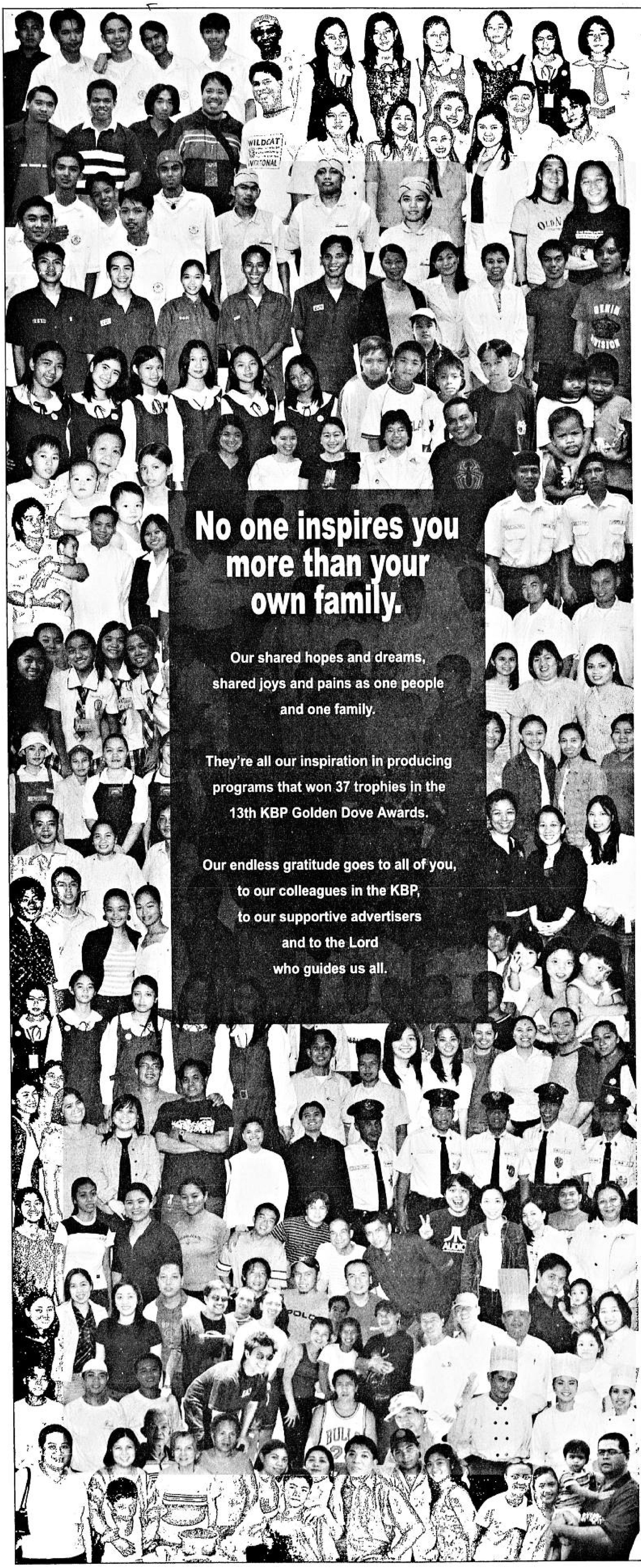

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Angelina Calina – Chikahay Ta! (TV3-Cebu)

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ABS-CBN

Tupperware parties turned him into a finance whiz

FIRST JOB

By Clarissa S. Batino

WHO COULD have thought that Tupperware parties could actually turn an average teenage boy into a finance whiz?

Perhaps it was the responsibility of spending weekends helping his mother carry the goods so she could conduct the Tupperware demos or that he was surrounded with much older people who attended the party over plastics.

Whatever it was, Jaime Bautista is pretty sure that the responsibility given him by his mother, Felicidad, when he was in junior high helped shape a promising career in auditing and finance.

Jimmy is one of taipan Lucio Tan's trusted finance executives.

He was appointed president and chief operating officer of Philippine Airlines during its Aug. 26 stockholders meeting. Prior to that, he was president of Air Philippines Corp., another airline firm of the taipan.

Soft-spoken Jimmy is the only boy in a brood of four. He says the task of helping his mother carry loads of Tupperware in all shapes and sizes to augment the family's modest income fell squarely on his shoulders.

Learning the value of money early in his life, Jimmy says taking up accounting in college became a natural course. His college degree and countless experiences from several odd jobs became his ticket to a successful career that finds him at the helm of the country's flag carrier at the age of 47.

Jimmy recalls that during his third year in high school, he accompanied his mother to neighbors, friends and relatives to host Tupperware parties.

Ten percent commission

Spending most weekends carrying Tupperware items gave the recently appointed PAL president and chief operating officer extra money to go on dates or buy a new pair of shoes.

"My mother gave me a 10-percent commission on her earnings. If she makes P50, then she gives me P5 which wasn't bad," recalls Jimmy.

Jimmy's mother was a teacher and his dad also worked in government. He says the Tupperware sideline helped his parents provide for the family.

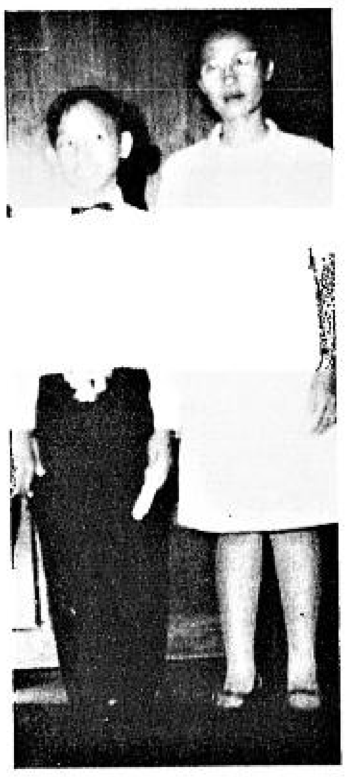
"My parents are government employees so they had modest income. We needed the extra money. It was fortunate that my mother is the top seller for Tupperware in our place that time," notes the PAL chief.

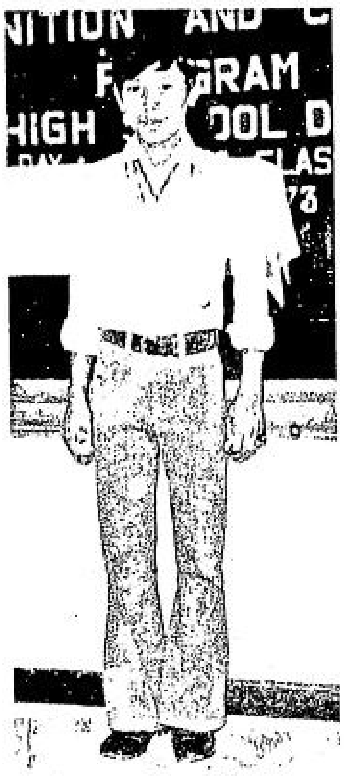
More odd jobs

The Tupperware stint was not the end of Jimmy's odd jobs. Toward his senior year in high school, he joined a cousin, who was a geodetic engineer, put up markers to measure a certain area.

"*Tagatusok kami ng mohon* or markers. These are used to help measure the land area. It was the summer before college and I used some of my savings as *baon* when I started studying in Lyceum in Manila," recalls Jimmy.

The summer job earned for him about P6 a day. Again, not bad for a boy who just wanted some extra money to have some fun.





AT A YOUNG age, Jimmy Bautista learned the art of selling and earning commissions. This paved the way for an accounting career. Leftmost photo shows the young Bautista during his elementary graduation with mother Felicidad. Middle photo shows him during high school graduation and photo above shows the new president and COO of PAL.

During his junior year in accounting, a professor hired Jimmy to work in his auditing firm. Jimmy and another classmate worked in the mornings as disbursement clerks for a movie production outfit, which was a client of the professor.

The movie outfit that produced the famed "Pinakamagandang Hayop sa Balat ng Lupa," which starred Gloria Diaz, relied on Jimmy to disburse money for expenses during the shooting. At that time, Jimmy earned P20 a day.

"At that time, I just needed 30 centavos for my fare, which means I had lots of money to go on dates. And to think I was a scholar so I hardly spent anything on school," says Jimmy, chuckling.

The sideline with the movie outfit lasted for three months. Then the professor gave him another auditing project with a galvanized iron firm. The sideline with the auditor lasted for two years.

Jimmy says he had to review for the CPA board after graduation so he stopped doing sidelines.

A week after passing the board, the PAL president says he started working for no less than SGV & Co. although his starting salary of P450 a month was lower than the P600 a month he was getting with his college sideline.

He worked for three years at SGV & Co. before joining Fortune Tobacco when he was only 23 years old. This year is his silver anniversary with the Lucio Tan Group.

His boss at SGV & Co., Bert Bacsal, whom Jimmy considers his mentor as well, brought him and Wilson Young to Tan's fold. Young is now the president of Tanduay.

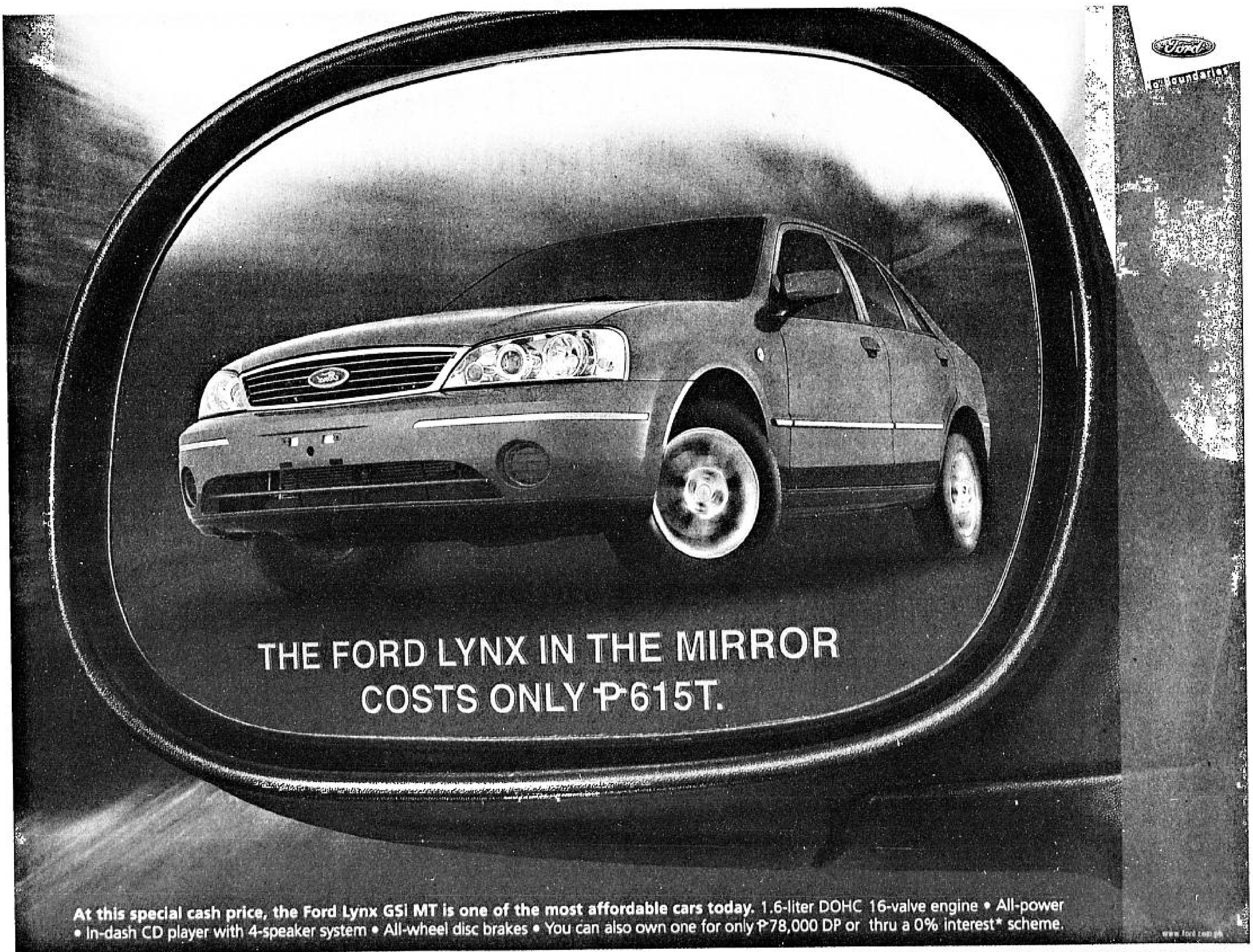
Since he came in, Jimmy had been involved in the taipan's major acquisition such as Tanduay from the Elizaldes in 1988, University of the East in 1989, Philippine Airlines in the early '90s and Philippine National Bank in the late '90s.

He also helped organize Asia Brewery Inc. and says that it was in his brief stint with the beer company where he gained enough experience to borrow funds.

"During that time, the Lucio Tan group was growing and diversifying so we were brought in to assess the feasibility of the new business. My experience is really in accounting but I learned how to borrow money in Asia Brewery," he says.

Apart from that, Jimmy is often asked to review the financial statements of the group. He was a

TUPPERWARE/ B2



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Hold that ticket

By Amy R. Remo

HAVE you ever received a thick envelope containing a plastic key and a bunch of papers claiming to be your ticket to winning a brand new car?

These and other forms of sweepstakes are often dismissed by some as a scam and a way for companies to elicit additional sales from unwary customers.

Fortunately, many Filipinos didn't, and Lady Luck smiled on three of them who joined the latest Reader's Digest Sweepstakes.

A businessman is the grand prize winner of P3.5 million; an 82-year-old widow, who has been a subscriber for 13 years, won P1.2 million; while another male reader won P150,000. Of the 1,596 winners of other smaller prizes, 372 were from the Philippines.

Increased subscription

RD Sweepstakes has been around for 20 years and it has helped increase magazine subscription by about 300 percent.

Readers' Digest country sales director Lilet Camara-Yan dismisses claims that the sweepstakes is a scam.

Yan says that Readers' Digest Sweepstakes has been around for 20 years and its success alone is a testament to its legitimacy and authenticity.

"In fact, a lot of students and marketing companies have used the RD Sweepstakes as a case study," adds Gina Santos, direct marketing manager of A-Z Direct Marketing Inc., the exclusive distributor of Readers' Digest products.

Started in 1984, the RD Sweepstakes initially held independent draws in Taiwan and Hong Kong.

It was only in 1990 when the Sweepstakes was expanded to run regionally, with the Philippines, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Singapore as the participating countries.

Held to generate excitement among its readers, the RD Sweepstakes also aims to highlight other Reader's Digest products, as well as show appreciation to its loyal subscribers.

Yan says that initially, Reader's Digest had difficulty conducting the sweepstakes.

"Upon receiving the envelope, people thought they have already won, when in fact, what we're giving them is an opportunity to win something," says Yan.

"That's the reason why we're very careful in visibly putting words like 'chance' in the letters, so as not to mislead the public," says Santos.

Yan explains that they have several types of mails that they send to subscribers and the ones they include in RD products sold at book stores.

"What we want the readers to do is to simply reply either a yes or no by sending back the envelope. Either way, they would still be included in the draws," says Yan.

When the reader or subscriber replies yes, he has to buy another RD product to qualify for a draw, which has prizes of higher value. At the same time, he will be qualified for the regional grand draw. Freebies like bags or sample CDs are given to those who would reply yes.

If one says no, meaning he's not interested to buy other RD products, he would still be qualified for other draws, with prizes of lower value.

Preliminary draws are conducted to reduce the number of entries to be forwarded to the Hong Kong regional office.

Santos says that they used to hold manual draws with the old-fashioned tambiolos, but not all entries would be given a fair chance to be drawn.

Thus, starting this year, draws were done electronically. Each entry has a corresponding bar code, while the subscribers have their customer reference numbers.

A number of entries, as determined by the regional office, will be pre-drawn and forwarded to the regional office, along with the entries from the three other countries.

Although the draws has been done annually since 1984, Reader's Digest decided to hold semi-annual draws for 2004 to shorten the waiting period of customers, according to Yan.

"For the first half of the year, with a circulation base of 110,000 for Reader's Digest, entries reached more than 230,000," adds Yan.

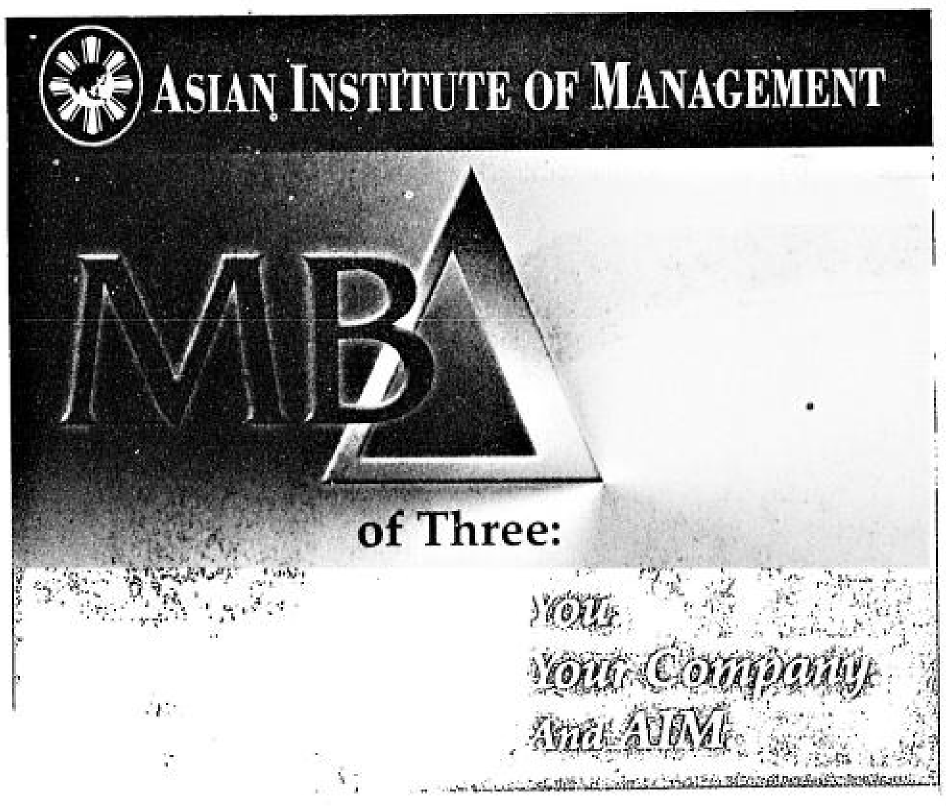
Warm reception

This year, RD Sweepstakes had drawn one first prize regional winner, one first prize winner from each participating country, one regional second prize and about 1,800 consolation prize winners.

Despite going through a difficult phase, the RD Sweepstakes is warmly received by its readers and subscribers.

To date, 6,885 Filipinos, including the super grand prize winners of 1998 and 2003, have received prizes from Readers' Digest, which gave away P40 million worth of prizes since 1995.

So next time you get that legitimate packet in the mail, join. You never know if it will be the ticket to a million pesos.



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BROTHERS' ACT

Asian concepts land in RP

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

LIKE the Beatles, the Chu brothers are greater than the sum of the parts.

Walden, Winward and Wilson Chu play on each other's strengths, and together brought to the Philippines new concepts in food, beverage and entertainment that competition is getting nervous about.

Their first venture was Banana Leaf Curry House, which opened in August 2001, and born out of the desire to introduce Filipinos to other types of food that he and his brothers enjoyed while traveling and working overseas.

Filipinos immediately took to its array of Asian food and have become as familiar with the Hong Kong-based franchise's nasi lemak, roti bread, hot beef curry and chicken sate, as they are about adobo and sinigang.

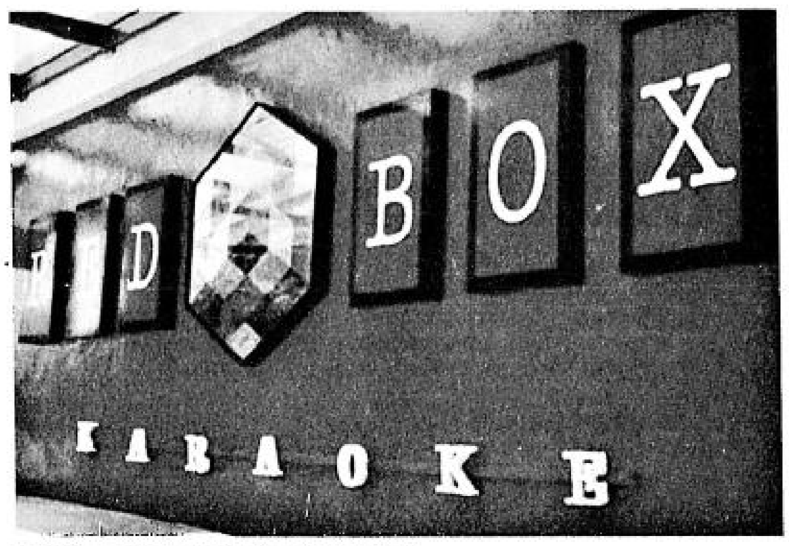
Encouraged by the success of the venture, the brothers looked for other concepts to bring in, and found one in the Coffee Bean, the United States' oldest privately held coffee chain.

It started operations in the Philippines in May 2003, and differentiated itself from the market by expanding its food line and serving generous helpings of pastries and salads.

Coffee Bean was quickly followed up by the Red Box karaoke franchise, also from Hong Kong, in December 2003.

Far from just a place for Filipinos to belt out their favorite tunes, Red Box became a cut above the rest by dishing out fine cuisine and inviting families and office people to sing, even during their lunch break.

Armed with the experience in running franchised operations, the Chu brothers then thought of coming out with their own concept, and that was China Star.



RED Box takes karaoke to a higher level

China Star is the brothers' own take on the ubiquitous Chinese food, which opened in February 2004 at the ground level of the upscale The Podium.

And just when others thought that they had enough on their plate, they got another franchise from Singapore in May 2004—Bread Talk, which put a new spin into your everyday staple.

"We were always interested in food, beverage and entertainment and these are part of the Filipino lifestyle. We wanted to bring here the best of what we enjoyed in other countries," says Walden, the eldest of the brood, who is in his early 30s.

Walden and Winward got their college degrees in the United States, while Wilson got his from the Sofia University of Japan.

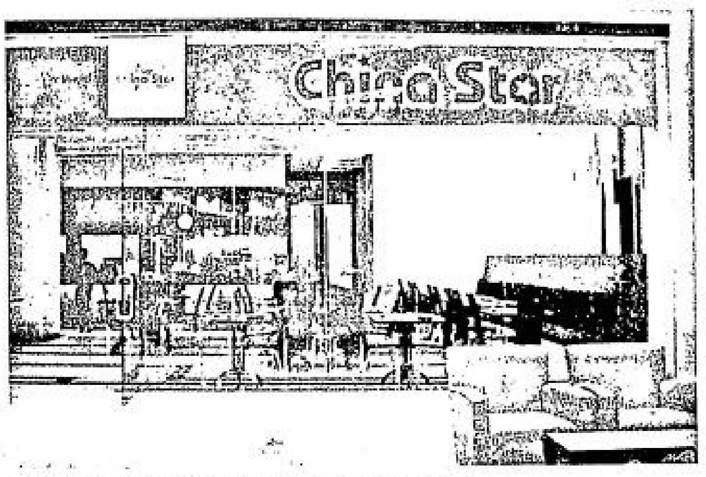
But while they were exposed to living and working in other countries, they have always dreamed of going back and making it in their homeland, even if they had to give up arguably more glamorous careers abroad.

And what better way to do it, than go into business together.

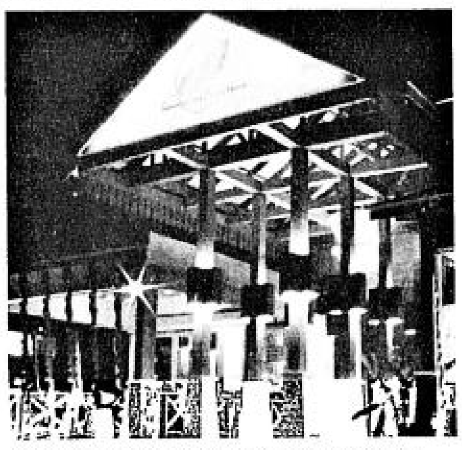
Walden, an accountant by profession, takes care of the financial side of the business while Winward handles Bread Talk and is into the creative side, such as designing the look of the stores.

Wilson, who can whip up dishes to rival those in the restaurants, is in charge of operations and considers China Star his "baby."

"We were lucky because we were trained by our parents to develop our own individual strengths and identities. We know our strengths and we play on those to the good of our business," Walden adds.



RESTAURANT offers Chinese food with a twist



BANANA Leaf takes Filipinos on culinary tour of Asia

Pre-paid calling cards available via Internet for Pinoys abroad

GOOD news for Filipinos abroad: they can now purchase international pre-paid calling cards when calling their loved ones in the Philippines in a secure manner from a reliable telecommunications provider based in the Philippines.

BayanTel recently launched bayancards.com, an on-line store that would cater to the growing market for international pre-paid calling cards targeting Filipinos working or living abroad.

Sherry Ann Supelana, BayanTel vice president for international and carrier business markets, says the concept behind bayancards.com is to provide quality and reliable international long distance service to overseas Filipinos through pre-paid cards sold via the Internet. As it is completely Web-based, customers can purchase call cards at bayancards.com anytime, anywhere.

Bayancards.com accepts credit card payments only. The website has affiliated with Equitable Cards Network for its payment gateway and is Verisign-registered allowing for the secure purchase of prepaid calling cards.

To date, an estimated 4 million Filipinos are now working in other countries and account for billion of dollars in remittances that significantly contribute to the country's economy.

"Overseas Filipino workers are a natural market for telecommunication services given the Filipino tradition of strong family ties. If we include the Filipino immigrants living abroad but with relatives based in the Philippines, the growth potential for this service is huge," adds Supelana.

Supelana said that users who purchase "cards" via bayancards.com are assured of quality line connection at reasonable rates to any point in the Philippines. Though the target market is primarily focused on OFWs terminating their calls to the Philippines, these cards can be used to call other countries as well.

The website was developed by Macklev Technologies, a software applications and solutions development company that specializes in the telecommunications industry.

Supelana says the launch of bayancards.com is just one of BayanTel's various efforts to expand its service targeting Filipinos abroad.

The company recently opened the BTI Global Communications Inc. offices in Japan and the UK to cater to the Filipino communities in those countries.

Tupperware parties turned . . .

From page B1

long time vice president and chief finance officer of the Lucio Tan companies.

He says that after an acquisition, he and others like him who were considered specialists were moved to other projects.

Apart from a brief management of PAL during the crisis, Air Philippines is Jimmy's first CEO appointment from the taipan. When he was appointed president of Air Philippines in March, Jimmy says he had an idea that it was just a prelude to a bigger challenge of leading PAL. He replaced Avelino Zapanta who had retired.

"It is very challenging to work for Mr. Tan. You have to be on your toes all the time. He is a workaholic and when he thinks of something, he wants it done immediately," notes Jimmy.

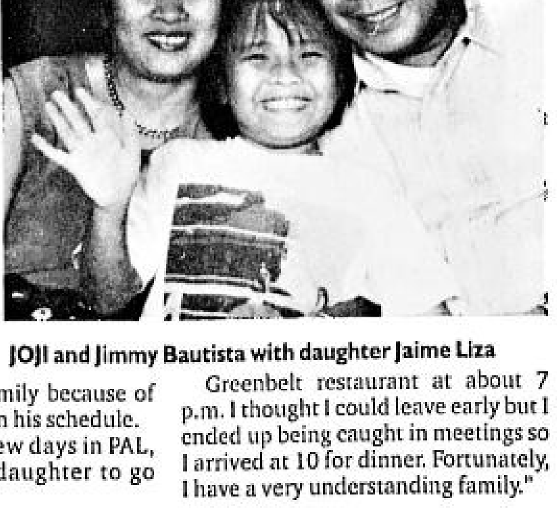
Language is not very much a problem. Having been exposed to the taipan's unique accent, he now finds it easy communicating with his boss.

Jimmy vows that under his term, PAL would be a revitalized, service-oriented company. He promises to improve the flag carrier's image as well as its product and services.

Pretty soon, people would stop joking around and referring to PAL as "plane always late."

It is Jimmy who is getting late for dinner dates with his family because of the demands of PAL on his schedule.

"During my first few days in PAL, I told my wife and daughter to go to this Greenbelt restaurant at about 7 p.m. I thought I could leave early but I ended up being caught in meetings so I arrived at 10 for dinner. Fortunately, I have a very understanding family."



JOJI and Jimmy Bautista with daughter Jaime Liza

Skin whitening battle: Green or yellow papaya?

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

TRAJANO

MIRROR, mirror on the bathroom wall, what's the best skin whitener of them all—green or yellow papaya?

A battle is raging in the market today as to which can best whiten skin—green papaya or yellow papaya.

The biggest contender for green papaya is Splash Manufacturing Corp., makers of Biolink. Spearheading the side of the yellow papaya is Dyson Laboratories' Kissa (endorsed by Kris Aquino) although the dominant yellow soap papaya brand is still Likas.

The arena for papaya as a skin whitener has widened with the entry of multinational firms. A few months ago, Procter & Gamble launched Safeguard papaya although its market line is a soap for a mom, and not really as a whitening agent.

Colgate-Palmolive also launched its Palmolive papaya.

Procter & Gamble came out with Perla papaya not with the intent of having whiter hands but a soap that cares for the woman's hands while she does the laundry.

Kissa makers reacted to ads launched by Biolink claiming the soap can whiten skin in two weeks and that green papaya is a better skin whitener. Kissa immediately launched a series of ads claiming "papaya extracts simply exfoliate or whiten the outer skin" which is why they adopted the dual lightening system (DLS) which "combines claire blanche that prevents melanin formation."

Eduardo T. Trajano, Dyson's industrial partner, explains papaya, whether green or yellow, contains papaine, which is a protein digester. He admits that green papaya does have more papaine. However its effect is the same on the skin. Papaine "eats dead skin," it sloughs it off, no matter what color of papaya is used.

"We believe in the skin whitening of papaya but to effectively whiten skin you have to have a melanin inhibitor. Melanin is what gives color to the skin. If you control the production of melanin, you control the color," explains Trajano.

There are no official figures as to how big the papaya soap market is. Earlier estimates have it at P2 billion a year.

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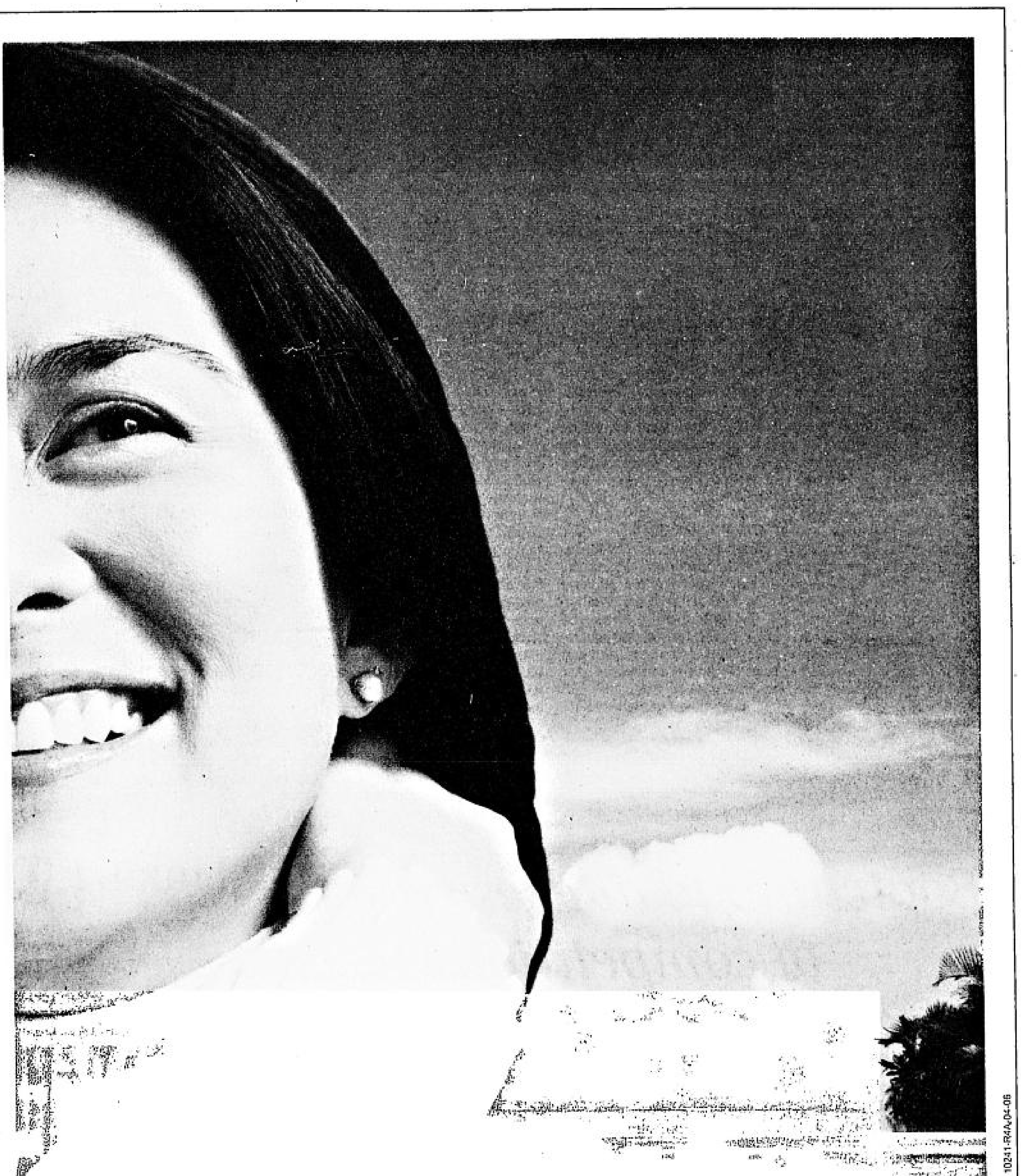
"Half of me dreams of fun, relaxing weekend trips. The other half fears long, stressful drives and hearing my kids whine, "Are we there yeeeeet?"



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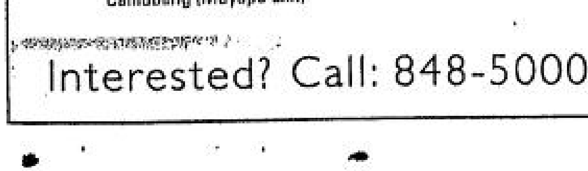

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Agri office turns grounds into farmers' paradise

By Mei Magsino
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

THROUGH organic farming, high value crops such as this cabbage thrive in the hot Batangas climate.
PHOTO BY MEI MAGSINO

BATANGAS CITY—They welcomed guests at the entrance with a smile, freshly picked flowers from the garden, and an icy cold blend of ginger ale, pandan and pineapple juice in crystal cocktail glasses.

The guests were then given homemade siopao and led to the table in front of a mini-falls to eat the welcome snacks while a carabao was dressed up to pull the caritela that would tour visitors around the integrated farm where catfish is grown beside the ricefield and high-value crops are propagated to be given to the people for free.

No, it was not a scene from Villa Escudero or a Tagaytay farm. It was right inside the vicinity of the Office of the City Veterinarian and Agricultural Services (Ocvas) in Barangay Bolbok of this city, where the once-shrubby forested land was turned into every farmer and gardener's paradise.

"This is our way of telling our fellow Batangueños that despite the growing industrialization of Batangas City, we never neglected the agriculture sector," Dr. Loyola Bagui, Ocvas chief, says. "In fact, we are even exploring more ways to help our farmer-cooperators harvest more and better crops from their farms that will give them more income and ensure food security. They are our top priority."

Farm tour

The Ocvas tour aboard a carabao-driven caritela was held in celebration of the Civil Service Month and was started from Sept. 6 up to Sept. 10 only.

Complete with a guitarist singing folk songs, it explored the orchard with the flowering plants already in the blossoming stage, and just under the giant mahogany trees. From the orchard, the tour passed the vegetable garden teeming with high-value crops that were never before grown in the hot Batangas climate.

The tour also took the guests to the *palay-isdaan*, a ricefield where catfish and rice are grown in one field.

There were also *tilapia* and duck pond, a piggery, poultry, and dairy farm.

Beside the poultry farm was the organic chicken farm where Ocvas veterinarians had successfully bred the kabir and sassoo with the native chicken.

At the far end of the farm were the heavy equipment lent to farmers who need mechanized assistance in ploughing, planting and post-harvest stages of their farms.

At the end of the tour, the guests were taken to the *barakahan*, or the mini-store where the fresh farm produce, mostly organic vegetables and fruits from the Ocvas farms, were sold at a price a little lower than the market price.

Farmers' paradise

From the once shrubby forests of the Ocvas grounds in Barangay Bolbok of this city that 10 years ago was taunted as the "Iwahig" or the farthest office of the city government, the 7,000-square-meter land is now alive with gardens, orchards and farms that have been helping the city's 105 barangays start, maintain and improve their farms.

"Here, we educate the farmers and would-be farmers on the latest agricultural innovation the hands-on way," Bagui added.

The project, according to him, is the first in Batangas, and is now being copied by the provincial government and the city government of Lipa.

Yellow corn

According to Bagui, one of their most successful and biggest projects now is the yellow corn program, which started two years ago.

"In this program, Ocvas provides the farmer with the seeds, 50-percent discount in the fertilizers, free tilling and ploughing of their fields; and now with the new mechanized corn planter, planting the corn is also free. All the farmer-cooperator has to do is to take care of the farm. Come harvest time, we also provide the post-harvest facilities and buyer of their crop," Bagui says.

He added that the Soro-Soro Ibaba Development Cooperative Inc. (Sidci) has a memorandum of agreement with the Ocvas to buy all the corn produced by the cooperators at the prevailing market price. The project started two years ago.

Pedro Abacan, a farmer-cooperator from Barangay Balagtas started the corn production two years ago in his two-hectare farm.

On the first harvest, he was able to buy a brand new passenger jeepney from the income he got from the corn program. Now, he has already planted 20 hectares of his land with yellow corn.

Ocvas lists 200 hectares in the city are now planted with yellow corn as more farmer-cooperators availed of the program when they heard of Abacan's good fortune from the corn.

Batangas original

According to city Mayor Eduardo Dimacuha, the Ocvas is a Batangas original.

"We didn't copy this concept from anywhere else. Two years ago, during my trip to Japan, I realized that the Japanese farmers have the same problems as we have here as their children would rather work in an electronics company than work in the farms. There, I realized that if we provide the mechanized farm implements to help the farmers till their lands, it would make the job easier for them and the next generation," Dimacuha says.

He added that when he got home to Batangas City after the Japan trip, he and the city government's department heads immediately worked on the concept of providing assistance to the farmers.

"On the first year of operation, there was a bountiful harvest that we had a corn festival and *kalamay-mais* (corn cakes) became a hit," Dimacuha said, "And since we encouraged the farmer-cooperators to use only organic fertilizers, each harvest time, the volume of their harvest doubles."

Integrated farms

With *hito* (catfish) growing beside the ricefield at the rate of the rice stalks, Ocvas has successfully integrated the *palay-isdaan* concept.

"This is what the farmers say '*may kanin na, may ulam pa*' (with rice and viand)," Bagui said, "We encourage farmers from the lowland areas to do the palay-isdaan style. That way, they raise two crops in one season." Bagui also showed how the integrated tilapia, hito, and duck farm works. Beside the ponds, kangkong is also grown as vegetable source.

"We have also successfully crossbred the kabir and sassoo chicken with our native chicken," Bagui says, "We did that to combine the fast-growing potential of the sassoo and the kabir chickens with the good eating quality of our native chicken."

The result is a bigger native chicken with the tastier meat.

Organic

High-value crops such as carrots, broccoli, honeydew melons, cauliflower and cabbage, which normally don't grow in the Batangas City climate, are now flourishing in the greenhouses of Ocvas. And those crops are all organically grown.

"We are now reaping the fruits of the waste segregation program that the city government has been implementing for over four years now. The biodegradable wastes from the controlled dumpsite in Barangay Sico, and the new market are turned into organic fertilizer. That's where we get our organic fertilizer, which is also sold to farmers," Bagui added.

Batangas City has been cited by the Provincial Government Environment and Natural Resources Office as the only city in the entire Batangas province that implements the waste segregation program.

This program also ensures a continuous supply of organic fertilizer to farmers.

No janitors

According to Bagui, the Ocvas—which is divided into the crops, livestock, cooperative, fisheries, home extension, nursery and administrative divisions-- is composed of employees with degree in agriculture or veterinary medicine.

"We don't have janitors here to maintain the place, we think that's our job. Since the people in every division are experts in their field, they go out into the barangay level to teach the people different livelihood programs that would ensure an alternative source of income for the people," he said.

Bagui added that the office holds a cleanliness contest among the different divisions to maintain order in their areas of responsibility.

During the garden tour, the guides, the folk singer and the carabao driver, who were all Ocvas employees, said they, too, have to do barangay visits and inspect the programs they have been implementing in the grassroots level. But they do that after their shift in the tours.

Ultimate goal

Like the self-sustaining Ocvas that generates income from the sell of crops every day, their ultimate goal, according to Bagui, is to see every landowner turn his idle land into an organic farm.

"Other cities have been trying to copy our concept. We're asking our fellow Batangueños to avail of our programs and utilize their lands to its fullest potential," Bagui adds.

According to Dimacuha, the city's farmer cooperators who availed of the corn program have reaped the fruits of their labor and been able to generate employment, provide food, and turn their idle lands into a good source of income.

"We have proven that it is possible. That's why we're encouraging the people to plant, plant and plant and prove that the impending fiscal crisis won't affect us through food security," Dimacuha says.

Bootcamp to address rigors of competition

WITH an increasing number of retailers and suppliers tugging at the tightening purse strings of households and companies, doing business these days can be likened to a war of attrition where only the best prepared can hope to survive.

To prepare companies for the brutally competitive marketplace, marketing and sales training specialist Mansmith and Fielders (722-2318/727-7142) will be conducting a "Business Building Bootcamp."

The idea bootcamp, which will be held at the Ballroom of the Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Makati City, is divided into two tracks: The Retailers Track on Oct. 5-6, and the Suppliers / Manufacturers Track on Oct. 7-8.

Retailers: Differentiation and Financial Management Competition is inevitable.

Even the most unique business establishments need only to wait a few weeks or months at the most before a competitor opens shop somewhere in their immediate vicinity.

Furthermore, the thematic design of malls and bazaars compel stores with almost similar lines of products and services to compete against each other side-by-side, on the same floor, and even along the same row.

In this environment, the retailers that survive or even flourish are the ones that manage to differentiate themselves. The Retailers Track of the Business Building Bootcamp shows how stores can use location, cost, brand, service, and experience as differentiating factors.

This track shows the importance of being the "first mover," the correlation of location and sales, the components of a strong brand, decreasing acquisition costs and stock-outs while increasing captured rates, service implementation strategies, and micromarketing.

Aside from finding ways to rise above the crown of competitors, the Retailers Track emphasizes how to increase the rate-of-return (ROI) on investment using the Mansmith "5S's of Retail Business Model."

Various case studies present a wealth of ideas on carrying generic or branded items, how to generate per square meter or per square foot sales that is six times more than the industry average, localized niche retailing, prudent management of savings, and differentiating brand loyalty from store loyalty.

Entrepreneurs, senior store officials, as well as their marketing and finance officers are enjoined to attend the retailer's track.

Overcome roadblocks

The "Suppliers Track the Business Building Bootcamp" focuses on how marketing and sales promotions can be valuable tools in hurdling the common roadblocks that companies must face in this viciously competitive marketplace.

Among its key marketing lessons are how to develop a product category and build a premium priced brand; secure market leadership against strong competition; and the tradeoff between market shares and profitability.

Case studies will again be used to drill in learnings from the international marketplace such as fighting a low price attack, defensive and offensive business strategies, the difference between marketing and branding, seeking market opportunities, striving to be the best and not necessarily the biggest, and the profitability framework for marketing actions.

Companies can also benefit greatly from clever, well-planned promotions. The Suppliers Track teaches how to into the news without increasing ad and promo spending through innovative ideas like guerilla marketing, non-traditional awareness campaigns, and promos that are consistent with lifestyle, values, and interests of target market.

Among the key topics are the 3E's of a good promo, current sales promo trends, 10 tips on promo evaluation, what to look for in promo personnel, and utilizing the target market as an advertisement for a product or service.

Both the Retailers and Suppliers Track of the Business Building Bootcamp will be conducted by Mansmith and Fielders president and CEO Josiah Go, the first and only Filipino to be recognized by the Jaycees International as one of the Ten Outstanding Young Persons of the World in 2002 under the Business Education category.

Go has released 10 best-selling marketing and sales books since 1992 and has been a professorial guest lecturer of marketing for both the MBA and the MS Marketing program of De la Salle University.

Linking TQM with profitability

FOR MANY people, the connection between Total Quality Management (TQM) and corporate profitability is vague and hazy.

Business owners and stockholders alike that are now pressuring their line quality managers to show proof that their respective organizations have benefited financially from TQM.

The issue was brought to light some 10 years ago and still lingers up to these days when several articles including the thought-provoking manuscript "Is TQM Dead?" were published by different authors in different slants in Quality Digest (1994) and USA Today (1995).

They queried why some award winners of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Awards (MBNQA) and the Deming Prize have had periods of poor financial performance after winning the award.

Such concrete examples provided the ammunition in an attempt to dislodge TQM as a business strategy for private organizations.

In the Philippines, there was yet no similar study made for the winners of the Philippine Quality Award (PQA), the equivalent of the MBNQA.

But still, many business owners and stockholders have begun to question the value of TQM to achieve corporate profit, just the same.

When company owners begin to search for the linkage, their focus tends to fall into two categories: One, companies do TQM because it appears to be an industry fashion. Two, companies do TQM because it is a promising tool for corporate survival.

Every organizational system functions within and is affected by many other management philosophies.

For one, customers and suppliers have their own business systems that affect TQM. The corporate environment, the market, the government and everything in-between also affect TQM.

So why blame TQM after all? In defense of TQM, Doctors Kevin Hendricks and Vinod Singhal in their paper entitled "The Effect of Total Quality Management on Corporate Performance" say that "the criticism that TQM has produced lackluster economic gains is unwarranted."

But the issue remains the same. The controversy about TQM must be resolved one way or the other, especially now that many organizations have already invested on it.

Many quality managers have indicated that even though their organizations have already committed to TQM, they still need hard evidence to answer the question posed by business owners.

To establish the value of TQM, it is important to link it to financial measurement. To do this is to examine the stock price performance of companies that have effectively implemented TQM.

Stock price performance is publicly reported and can be easily tracked.

The Philippine Society for Quality (PSQ), the private sector administrator of the PQA can do it as a service to the business community.

It is about time to conduct this study after the seventh cycle of the PQA which covers close to 30 award winning companies since its inception in 1998.

Singhal, the proponent of this choice of performance measure for TQM is arriving in the country this month to elaborate on his five year old research, along with Hendricks.

Singhal was invited by PSQ to talk about the linkage of TQM and corporate performance in an international quality conference co-organized with the Asia-Pacific Quality Organization at Edsa Shangri-la Hotel.

It will be held on Sept. 13-15 with the theme "Connecting the World...through Quality."

TQM is one of those management principles every company says it like to implement but few can say how, much more to achieve financial gains. This is one area of responsibility that causes companies the most anguish.

Faced with the "fiscal crisis," the government must take the lead to practice TQM by example as a cost-effective way to combat the deficit.

With TQM, the premise becomes simple and practical. Anybody can simply downsize the organization to survive, but it takes brains to make a quality product.

Internet firm goes on its own magical mystery tour

By Frank Cimatu
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BETA Balagot (by the door) and her employees prepare to board the Mozcom bus that would take them for 10 days to all their operation's points of operation in Luzon. EV ESPIRITU

BAGUIO CITY—To celebrate 10 years in the information superhighway, what better way to do it than get a real bus and ride the real highway.

Mozcom, one of the largest Internet service providers, went on a magical, mystery ride by hiring two buses to go across the country (one for Luzon and another for the Visayas and Mindanao) to trace their web presence for 10 days.

In every stop of the blue bus, Mozcom staged concerts and gave prizes to their most loyal customers.

At the helm of the Luzon trip was Beta Balagot-Gan, who took over as Mozcom CEO and board chair when her husband, Dr. Willy Gan, died in 2001 of liver cancer.

Gan and Dr. William Torres, who chaired the computer science department of Ateneo de Manila University and the National Computer College, founded Mozcom in August 1994.

Incidentally, both Gan and Torres were included by Wired Philippines among the top 10 most influential Filipinos in the Internet.

For Beta Gan, who headed the Environmental Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources before Mozcom, taking over her husband's role was not as hard as shethought.

She insisted that the move from environment to virtual reality was nothing radical.

Internet service actually ushered in the paperless society and less paper means less trees to be cut Emails also cut transport costs.

And with a name like Beta, how can you miss? Beta to computer geeks is a pre-release software that needs a little more testing before it can be released to the public. Which means that whatever comes out of Mozcom, has to pass through the test of Beta.

But Beta said that her brand of management is in relating with people. "My strength is that I can read people and easily relate to them," she said.

Beta said that her people-orientedness is only following the founders' vision to "bring the Internet to as many Filipinos as possible."

And to bring the Internet to the Filipino *masa*, one has to use inexpensive but up-to-date technology, Beta said. She said that Mozcom has a "very strong research and development pool."

"You have to be ahead in technical innovations so that your rivals will only be doing catch up," she said.

Mozcom is the first commercial Internet service provider and the first to introduce domestic and international roaming for its subscribers.

It was the first ISP to offer digital subscriber lines. It has 70 points of presence in 100 cities in the country which the Mozcom buses visited last September.

Its domestic backbone nodes in Metro Manila and Baguio, Cebu and Davao cities host a traffic of over half a million Internet users.

This backbone provides the infrastructure that runs corporate virtual private networks for corporations like Nestlé, Philippine National Oil Corp. and United Coconut Planters Bank and campus networks for schools like University of the Philippines, Ateneo and La Salle-Lipa. Its Mozcom Nitro card is the 2004 national Shoppers' Choice awardee in the prepaid Internet card category.

Among its latest offerings is the NetVideo line of IP-based video monitoring solutions that allow entrepreneurs to view in their cel phones what their security guards will see in their surveillance cameras.

It is also offering the biometric timekeeper which is cheaper and more reliable than a Bundy clock. Instead of punching cards, one has to sign in only with his or her fingerprint.

"We have to make Filipinos realize that the Internet is the cheapest way to communicate these days," Beta said. "Riding this bus is a symbolic way of meeting up with our subscribers and potential customers in the information highway."

The Northern Luzon leg is particularly memorable for Beta. She was born in 1948 in San Fernando, La Union, but grew up in nearby Baguio City.

She was a product of public schools from the Baguio Central School to the Baguio City National High School to the University of the Philippines in Diliman where she took up BS Biology.

She met Willy Gan in New York while both were taking their postgraduate studies at the State University of New York in 1970. Gan graduated BS Physics magna cum laude in UP and took up Computer Science in SUNY. They have two children: Isabelle who is a journalist in Tampa Bay, Florida, and Richard who is taking up Oriental Medicine.

When they returned to the Philippines in the 1980s, Beta taught Zoology at UP and eventually joined DENR and became EMB director in 1990.

Her husband founded the Computer Network Systems Corp., which provided computer local area network for business companies.

In 1993, ComNet was contracted by the Department of Science and Technology to set up a wide-area network (WAN) connecting major schools and research organizations with each other and the Internet. From this, Mozcom was born.

"The opportunity came and he was there. He was at the right time at the right moment," Beta said of her husband.

When Gan died, Beta created the Willy N. Gan Foundation, which gives scholarships to college students in ICT-related courses and provides teaching grants to professors for postgraduate ICT courses.

Now that Beta is at the helm of the Mozcom bus to the information superhighway, she hoped that more Filipinos would join her in the ride. "We hope to do this again in 10 years," she said.

When the storm came, they built an ark to survive

THE ARK One team: (seated) Irwin Padrique, Ike Villareal; (standing) Haidee Czanindin, Kathleen Baclagan, Robert Cabatan, Desiree Abanador, Fletcher Von Aquino, Romano Quilloy and Julius Alzaga.

By Amy R. Remo

WHEN Agilent Technologies, leading manufacturer of diagnostic, monitoring and measuring equipment, decided to realign its Philippine operations in early 2003, many of its employees saw it as a loss of their jobs.

Irwin Padrique and five of his colleagues, however, saw a promising business opportunity.

"Business last year was declining so Agilent decided to shut down its subsidiary operations and work through partners instead," says Padrique.

Upon learning of Agilent's plan to realign its operations, Padrique proposed a plan to its regional management to become the exclusive distributor of Agilent's products in the country.

Padrique then was Agilent's country sales manager.

"I gathered five of my senior colleagues and formed Ark One Solutions Inc. in May 2003. We started with only seven employees," says Padrique.

Ark One, which is the result of Agilent's new model of doing business in the country, is now the exclusive distributor and representative of Agilent's EPSG and CSG instruments.

Its products include bluetooth, wireless LAN, digital scopes and analyzers, microwave test accessories and network management monitoring solutions.

It is a wholly Filipino-owned technology sales and services company focusing on high growth communications and electronics markets.

Padrique says its customer base are mostly export companies, those located at the export processing zone. Ark One has about 100 customers, although not all accounts are always active.

Key clients include Panasonic Mobile Communications, Globe Telecoms, Philips Semiconductor, Astec Power Corp. and Intel.

On its first year of doing business, Ark One managed to rake in $3.5 million in revenue.

Impressive for a start-up company, add the fact that Ark One is composed of 12 direct employees, most of whom are only in their early 30s. Its youngest employee is 28 years old. All of Ark One's founders are engineers.

Padrique, who is president and general manager for operations, is only 35 years old.

The company name Ark One, according to Padrique, bears significance to its founders.

As bible-believing Christians, Padrique and his colleagues saw their situation similar to the story of Noah and his ark.

Back in 2003, Padrique relates that the industry was suffering with multinational companies downsizing, retrenching and restructuring left and right.

"We saw ourselves as survivors during those turbulent times; among the few who had been on Noah's Ark and was spared," says Padrique.

Padrique explains that the 40 days of storm and flood can be likened to the situation Agilent and its competitors had undergone. Ark One would then be Noah's ark, while Padrique and his colleagues would be Noah and his family.

Managing a lean organization

For Padrique, managing such a small group, most of whom he had been with for more than seven years, has proven to be easier than he thought.

"What's difficult is not managing employees but dealing with the business environment itself, since our company is mainly dependent on investments in electronics manufacturing," says Padrique.

Even so, Padrique makes sure he leaves no room for conflicts to arise within the organization by putting high emphasis on values.

"We concentrate on building everyone's values because I believe that if you are good internally, it will reflect on how you work for the company and how you relate to your superiors and colleagues," explains Padrique.

So aside from the regular corporate meetings, Ark One also holds weekly bible study sessions.

Padrique adds that if people don't have the right values, they would not be able to handle each other's differences. There would also be no discipline or respect for one another.

Discipline, according to Padrique, is highly emphasized in their line of business.

Padrique says that since their business is sales oriented, there are times that their employees have to make client calls. One can either work at home or at the client's office and would report to the office only when needed.

If one doesn't have discipline, he won't be able to deliver quality service for the company, given that there's room for time mismanagement and procrastination.

"We can't monitor our employees all the time, especially when they are on client calls. It's up to them to make good use of their time," says Padrique.

Padrique hopes that they would be able to expand their products and services, adding more principal clients to their accounts and providing services such as consulting and contracting services.

As Ark One beefs up its organization, Padrique says they hope to develop their own line of products and services, and distribute them to both local and international customers, in the near future.

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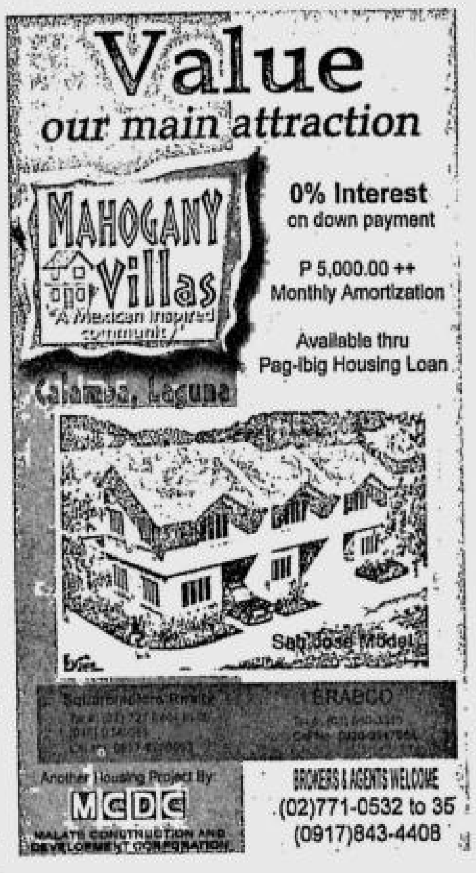
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BNEW 4BR w/POOL Sta. Mesa 3TB 2CG Sec. P9M M'danao 4TB 2CG Sec. P3.8M • PROJ. 7 Bnew 5BR 3TB 1CG • PROJ. 4 Bnew 4BR 2TB Nice 371-3996 • 0917-7957850 DBO

Capitol Homes Nr. Ever Gotesco Split Level 3 BR 400 sq.m. P6.8M T-6337601-03

LOYOLA GRAND VILLAS LA817m² FA550m² 5BR 6TB Den Lanai Pool Garden 4Car-Gar P18.5M • 920-6172

RIZAL

RUSH SALE!!! COTTONWOODS-ANTIPOLO Corner Lot Near Clubhouse Wide Garden Lawn Clean Title LA565m² Joe Tan 0921-2002078 / 637-5146 0917-3312879 / 749-9766

Vill. East Cainta nr. Makro 3brm 3tb Maids Grge FA136m² LA75m² Marble RFO P1.28M P480T Down P14T/mo. 931-1313 0919-4902165 439-0775 0917-9239217

OTHER AREAS

A PRIME SUBD 2 bdrms 1T&B LA 170m² P1.3M Vic 8903461 loc 25/27

BAGUIO

PensionHse 8BR 9.8M 8202408

BULACAN

STA. MARIA 225T 9372688

CAVITE

82m² 900T Camella Bside Ayala South Vale 8428584

HOUSE & LOT

QUEZON CITY

SIKATUNA VIL 68Maningning 81Mahiyain 9210255/9967 9220547

SCOUT #124Castor New P2M DP 5BR5TB2CGE 9210255/9967 9220547

CAVITE

H&L Cavite City Concrete 2Sty. w/veranda 3BR,2TB,hot water,A/C, garden,2 kitchen, 1 prkng, 2M neg. 0917-8423129 Dir.BuyersOnly

Mla Southwoods PH1 LA 475 FA 490 3BR DEN Study 4T/B Fully Furnished 12M •09272156883•

LAGUNA

Ayala Sta. Rosa San Jose Village Phase6 P1-2M Margie 3619953 ; 4478831

BINAN 400T CP (0927)6438231

LAGUNA BEL-AIR LA 132m² 3bdrms 2T&B FA84m² P1.85M Vic 8903461 loc 27/25

METROVILLE SUBD LA 122m² 2bdrms 1T&B FA61.28m² P1.2M Vic 8903461 loc 27

MILAN CAMELLA HOMES 3Stry FA2 10m² P1.9M VIC 8903461 LOC 27/25

CONDO/TWNHSE

ALABANG

Mintcor Townhouse 2bigBR 1maidsqrtr 2TB w/ grge nice 1.9M DBO 9218801;9211780

MAKATI

(1) Office/Residential Condo Unit For Sale (3.1M) 4th & 5th Flrs. w /attic, U-4/5-3 Sunshine Cond. 9833 Kamagong St., SA Village, Makati City Floor area of 111.60sqm. For inquiries contact: Rey Jaucian 8940012-13 Mobile No. 0919-358-0236 E-mail: rjaucian@pana.com.ph Brokers are Welcome!

1.8M Nr FORT First Class Amenities 2-4BR Rent to Own / No DP Big Disc 0920-2360929

1M C5 Nr The Fort 10T/mo. or 4Yrs No Int. or 10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD 2-4BR 15min Fr Mktl 0917-8313226

2.9M up @ D FORT 1-3BR&PHOUSE FF 3YRS TO PAY NO INT T-0920-9249907

INVEST In DFORT-SOMA RFO in MAKATI-West of AYALA Luxury Condo 1-5BR 3M-17M 39-230m² Dennis 0917-3507295

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOT

MANDALUYONG

LOT FOR SALE

Location and Description
No. 306 J.P. Rizal Street, Barangay Namayan, Mandaluyong City; rear portion of the property is Pasig River.
Lot Area : 4,287 square Meters Php 60,917,220.00 (negotiable)
For particulars: Please call at 811-5807 up to 14 / Fax No. 811-5815
Ask for Gee/Cirila/Dannie
Note: Prices subject to change without prior notice

LOT FOR LEASE

PRIME LOCATION FOR LEASE
BAGUIO CITY
Ideal Com'l Development Two Adjacent Lots Along Gen Luna & Emilio Jacinto Rd nr Cathedral, Session Rd & Market.
MMla. 7276805 • 7264836 or 09189015762 Cecille
Baguio City: (074) 4422125 ; 3043276 0917-5068548 Helen or (074) 4480375 0920-9249071 Patrick

CONDO/TWNHSE

QUEZON CITY

LAST 1 BR
Condotel 38.5 SM Regalia Cubao
2.6+M Direct Buyers only
0917-5582479

MAKATI

RUSH Ayala The Columns, Tower 2, 2BR, 1 parking, veranda, 21/F assume balance 5.2M 09178423129

STUDIO NR D'Fort & Mktl Rent 2 Own P10K/mo. ONLY 2BR to 4BR 0918-9384927

P1.2M-1.5M 2BR CONDO 11T/MO 15 MIN TO MKTI OR 10%DP RFO ALSO ORTIGAS 8736426 • 0918-5251365

MANILA

2-1BR UNITS FOR SALE FRONT LASALLE TAFT CALL 7509819 OR 09173943042

Malate Near Pedro Gil 1BR 65sq.m Nice 631-0752

Nr UST 3.8M 4br 3tb 1cg Bank Loan Ok! 645-3731

Singalong Manila BnewTwnhse /3stry/3br/3tbmaids rm1-2grge P3 990M up 8903461 loc. 34

Twnhses nr DLSU - Taft Ave LA42 - 48Sm 1Car P2 5M UP 562-3531 / 0917- 5272166

MANDALUYONG

RFO,Bnew,2.3M Up, Cash / TE Rm W/ Disc., 1-3BR. 09192189817

PARANAQUE

3BR 3TB 1CAR GRGE 1MDS ROOM w/club house P3.5M call Charo 822-5479-80

BRAND NEW 3STRY 7121435

PASIG

1.3M 3Yrs No Int 40sq.m Nr Mktl & Ort 0917-9749397

1.6M ORTIGAS AVE.. Resort-Type, 1st Class 2-4BR, P12T mo./No DP/0% Boss • 0917-5234223

VVERDE 3BR 1.8M T9124323

QUEZON CITY

B/new 3BR3TB mds rm 2cgrg 4388754 09228530530 159 Sct. Limbaga Ext

Condo 72m² with tiles P2M nr E. Rodriguez Cubao 4227651

Cubao 2 Storey Town Hse 3BR w/aircon 3TB mds qrtr 2car grg P3.2M 921-1780 921-8801 Direct Buyers Only

CUBAO P1.5M 5YRS TO PAY No Interest Move-in 9126976

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CONDO/TWNHSE

QUEZON CITY

Eastwood City Libis 1-3br 6341212

FAIRVIEW 2M LA 45 SQM FA 108 SQM 3STRY 3BR 2T&B GARAGE SEMI-FURN NR FEU TEL 939-2949

Timog 990T 20% DP 15YRS 292-6137, 0917-8160250

NEW MANILA CONDOS B'new STUDIO 2BR & 3BR 10%DP to move-in Call: Vilma 0922-8067388

Valencia Hills 1BR 634-1212

VILLA FELICIDAD Cubao Araneta Center 5-BR 3T&B 1CAR GARAGE TEL 439 -1995 / 439 - 6921 0920-902-0858;0921-543-9449

VARIOUS AREAS

PDCP UNIT OFC 3.9M neg. 85.43sqm w/pkg Leviste St Salcedo NEW CONDO in VALENCIA HILLS STUDIO, 2BR, 3BR, w/pkg 3M up! and BAY GARDENS Roxas Blvd 2BR, 3BR, w/pkg 6M up 20%DP TO MOVE-IN. CALL ROSE T-750-8291/0927-7996662

OTHER PROVINCIAL

BAGUIO 4BR 3TB 2M 8202408

BAGUIO

WRIGHT PARK PLACE BAGUIO 163m² 3BR Call Cecile 872-5204 to 05

APARTMENT

LAGUNA

2 Sty 3dr Apt Metroville Sta Rosa Laguna P1.7M Neg Popoy 0917-5441746

LOT

ALABANG

ALABANG INST. 09228094827

KALOOCAN

Rainbow Village 5 LA 216m² P3.473/m² Vic 8903461 loc 25

LOT

LAS PINAS

BFRV 375 @ P5,200 872-5750

METROCOR 254sqm @P4500 near SM 800-4771

MAKATI

Along Buendia Bautista 200m² 241m² 248m² 271m² 445m² 631m² 1400m² • 844-8420 • 845-3918 •

MAKATI Lot 4 Lease/Rent nr Cas&Carry Call 0917-5374140

MANILA

Corner Lot (PRIME) Tondo Manila E-mail: satmis@cam.org Mr. Mateo

Evangelista Quiapo Manila Lot 318m² 807-1245

MANDALUYONG

Edsa 400m² Hi Density Highly Comm'l Pls. Call 645-3731

PARANAQUE

BFP COR 270@6K 872-5750

BFPque-R. Palma St. 280m² 6T 873-4882/0917-8921314 DBO

PASIG

METROVILLE SUBD LA333m² P4,054/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

VV-5 PRIME LOT 504M² 45T/M² NEG 0917-8905747

QUEZON CITY

Ayala Hillside Estates Ms. Kalios 416-1661 • 952-7106 0917-3708160 • 0916-5461974

CUBAO 1160M² 645-3731

SAN JUAN

Lit'le Baguio 286sqm Near School 7213127 5328754

OTHER AREAS

SUBIC Adj Hway/Resort 29HA P120/m² neg Direct Buyers RUSH 6356003 / 6337371

TGYTAY H-W 582@P9K 8725750

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOT

MANDALUYONG

LOT

OTHER AREAS

TOWN & COUNTRY HILLS LA240m² P3,125/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

PROVINCIAL

★100% TAGAYTAY ★ 240m²-up 3,750/m² 135T D/P 6T Mo Best Loc nr Taal Vista 6609372

BATANGAS

50,000sqm lot-P100/sqm Sto. Tomas, Batangas Tel.810-5498/0927-2617308

RANCHO VISTA SUBD LA613m2 P2,248/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

BULACAN

SAN MIGUEL BUL 4000m² P180/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

CAVITE

DON BOSCO EXEC HTS LA128m2 P2,900/m2 Vic 8903461 loc 27

PARKPLACE SUBD LA120m² P5,750/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

ST. CHARBEL DASMA nr SM 371m2 P2,650.m2 Vic 8903461 loc 27

LAGUNA

Com'l Binan Along Nat. Hway 2238m² bside PT&T Rush P8,500/m² 8311158

SOUTH PEAK P5,000/m2 LA240m2 Vic 8903461 loc 25/27

OFFICE SPACE

•Fedman U-305 98sqm P3.2M Salcedo St. Legaspi Vill Makati Newly Renovated •Prudential Life Bldg Arnaiz Ave Legaspi Vill Makati 550sqm P33T/sqm Whole Floor 4 Parking Miramar •817-1589/91/94•

Rufino Towers Best Buy 212m² with 3 Prkng P8M 7240394

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NAIA Nr Caltex 22M 1700m² 3Story Bldg 0917-3908413

MEMORIAL LOT

HERITAGE MEM'L FORT BONI Lawn•Garden•Estate Lots Cash or Installments Mars 875-4095 / 09175259510

HERITAGE PARK Lawn Lots P68,292 Along Main Rd More Lots 838-8501, 09194900564

FARM/FISHPEN/ RAWLANDS

LIPA SAN BENITO 1.6HA, 2.5HA, 3.8HA 09166820877 / 09193173881

NUSA DUA FARM ESTATE NO DOWN With Title Glecy 714-4916 • 0920-2308106

PALAWAN FARM
51Ha Nr Tabon Cave VNice w / Bungalow & Farm House / Road / Elec y / Big Cave / H20 Falls / River / Asstd Fruits Comes w / Beach Lot See video 2 Appreciate Amount : P3M Net Call : Raquel 0917-8278237

BULACAN

SAN MIGUEL BUL 4000m² P180/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

RESORT

BATANGAS w/ Improvement FLOWING WATER 1HA 09166820877 / 09193173881

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

COMMERCIAL/ RESIDENTIAL

ALABANG

Dental Clinic for Sale Alabang Town Center 0927-7971062 / 8509071

HOUSE

MANDALUYONG

2-Sty 4BR P10T/mo 620-4721

MARIKINA

2STY 3br 2tb FA100M² water tank 1car grge/tel/cable/AC Ready nr St. Scho. School 942-0654 or 09173736612

VISTA VALLEY 3BR 2TB Garage • Call Jo 941-3287

RIZAL

3BR SQ Newsss H2O 'Grge 10T/mo Vermont Park Antipolo Tel 645-8156

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

BNew Condo Nr D'Fort/Makati 2BR with Parking 17/mo 0916-4617642, 828-2605 -Mor

Mkt. Studio P8.5 2BR P13.5 Tel / prkg FlexTerm 879417

NEW STUDIO / Coml / 2BR (STup 1672 Dian St. Mktl 843-941•0918 9390355 Rise

NEW TWNHSE/3 UNITS/FLRS /4BRS W/GRGE MULTI-USE OFC /CLNC/RES/ 1103 DEL PAN ST MKTI 872-3425 0916-3135877 Ed

NR ST.BENILDE ST SCOLASTICA, LA SALLE NICE AFFORDABLE SECURE 1BR 2BR, STUDIO 4057135 NICK

MANILA

1BR 65sq.m FF Very Nice Malate Near Remedios 17T 63-0752

BAYVIEW TOWER II 3BR FULLY FURISHED OVERLOOKING ROXAS BLVD REDY TO OCCUPY CALL 3626090

STA. ANA VILLAS 4BR/T&B 3 STOREY 2 CAR GARAGE T-8184238/8127741 Juliet

QUEZON CITY

2BR 2TB Grg w/ attic 17North Rd nr Edsa 7253023;723351

BRAND NEW 3BR maids rm 3TB 116sqm 1st St. cor. Gilmore Ave. New Mla. QC 28K Violy/ Tintin 5277616

SAN JUAN

Platinum1 4BR Gills Prkg • 0917-5245935 Tony

APARTMENT

LAS PINAS

•New 2br Grge 6T 720943

MANILA

1933 Makata Sta Cruz near Tayuman 2storey 2BR w/TB w /water pump 912460

CONDO 2BR w/grge 585296

nr LaSalle St.Scho 404216

PASIG

2 BDRMS UP/DN 641-582

BO. CAPITOLYO 6331040 TETA

QUEZON CITY

Brnd new studio type Proj 2 4342604 / 0919-287664

NR SM CHERRY 9T 926884

SAN JUAN

2BR Concrete with garage scrnd #5-F 2nd West frame San Juan Call 724-7468

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120 MLA 7118679/411330

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REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

ROOM & BOARD

•FURNISH PASAY 8872665•

Rm TB Philam QC 9265582

MAKATI

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BUSINESS RENTAL

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Kapitolyo Res/Buss 634-1212

MAKATI nr BUENDIA PTAMO 30 /57/62/148/185/M² 1st class 8903461 loc 34 or 19 ofc hrs

LOAN & MORTGAGE

1.4% Cash Loans 0910-4208843

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OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

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One San Miguel Bldg. Origas 150m² 0917-5245935 Tony

MAKATI

AYALA cor MAKATI AVE Office units 342 sqm, 122 sqm P250 /sqm. G/F1 food shop 61sqm at P400/sqm.Call 8170405 Nina for details

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

HOUSE & LOT

HRENT TO OWN Sta Mesa Bung 3BR 150m² w/grge & tel 6394031/ 6955643

CONDO/TWHSE/ FOR SALE/RENT

CONDO FOR SALE/RENT BAYVIEW INTL. TOWER 3 Roxas Blvd Pque. Semi Furnished 4br+maids, 1-Parking Sale P7.5M / Rent P65Kpm + dues Neg. Contact 8934110 or 0927 8904030

SALE / RENT 8444746 G'HILLS

APARTMENT FOR SALE/RENT

APT P4,500-7,000 Manila Bedspacers 1,500 above 561-0960 look for Joyce/Aj

MANILA

RUSH 3BR Big grge 7152251

OTHER REAL ESTATE

REALTORS/SEMINAR

BROKER'S REVIEW 4382066

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VAN/PICK-UP

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2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

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Sale/Rental/Service 8014404

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(Australia)
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During PCCI Shows
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SUNDAY
Sept. 19, 2004
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
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Registration & Judging of Working Group
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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

U r Invited to atten d 4th Natl Entrep Congress as Pen 8330164 • 7282972

NOTICE OF LOSS

99 shares owned by Ruben L. de Leon was lost issued by Security Bank Corp. represented by Stock #0000052170. If no contest received new certificate will be issued. (PDI-Sept 19, 26 & Oct.3, 2004)

Lost St. Peter Life Plan OR Booklet Series 084651-700 &CPA003069-73 on 9/11/04 will no longer be honored.

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

FRANCHISING

HAIR SALON FRANCHISE SM Megamall 0917-8398638

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BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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P17,000 / MO !
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earnextranow.com code:alb2004 6531008 09178901851 Arlene

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

FEMALE

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Female25-30 yrs old,graduate,,computer literate,Ms Word,Excel and Email,work in Makati,Fax resume to Ms Samantha at 8856582.

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Real Estate Consultants Age 18 Up M/F College Grad. w/ or w/o Sales Exp. Earn P8Tmo. Allownz P25-50T Comm. H/Car Plan Send Resume w/2x2 Photo Call 816-0577 • 673-5820

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NATIONAL REAL ESTATE ASSOCIATION, INC
(The One-Stop Trade Organization)

CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO ATTEND THE
9th NATIONAL CONVENTION & EXHIBITS

THEME: "CREATING THE NEW FILIPINO COMMUNITY IN THE 21st CENTURY"

*September 23 – 25, 2004 * 10 A.M. - 9:00 P.M.*
MEGATRADE HALL 3, 5/F BUILDING B
SM MEGAMALL, EDSA, MANDALUYONG CITY, METRO MANILA

The Convention theme reflects both the challenges and opportunities faced by real estate practitioners in providing for the needs of the increasing number of Filipinos especially those who will be living and working in urban areas.

The sub-themes :

1) Planning and Design : Emerging Concepts 2) Development Regulations : Standards and Procedures 3) Project Financing and Implementation : Techniques and Requirements 4) Project Marketing and Estates Management. Participants will come form the Private and Government offices from various regions of the Philippines and other Asian countries.

REGISTRATION FEES

NREA Member	Php 1700	Students	Php 1000
Non-Member	Php 2300	Accompanying Person	Php 1000

(They may also register directly at the registration booths.)

(Includes 2 Lunch, 3 Snacks, 1 Cocktails, Certificate of Attendance, Kit and Convention Documents)

NOTICE

Please make checks payable to :
NREA
Email : nrea_org@yahoo.com or nrea@cyberlink.net.ph
*Telephone No. 913-4463 * Telefax 912-3492*

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WANTED

TECHNICAL SALES REPRESENTATIVE
- Graduate in Bio Chemistry, Chemistry, Medical Technology, Chemical/Mechanical Engineering, Food Technology / Microbiology, Electron Microscopy
- Enjoys travelling and good work ethics
- To sell and promote laboratory and medical instruments (with possible training abroad)

LABORATORY INSTRUMENT ENGINEER
- Graduate in Electronics and Communication Engineering, Material Testing Engineer.
- Computer Literate

REFRIGERATION ENGINEER
ARCHITECT / DRAFTSMAN
- Not more than 30 years old

Please bring your photo and bio-data with transcript of records to:

PHILAB INDUSTRIES, INC.
7487 Bagtikan Street, San Antonio Village, Makati City
Telephone: 890-8277 • 896-6658
e-mail: makati@philab.net

PEOPLE'S TELEVISION NETWORK, INC.

AN INVITATION TO BID

PEOPLE'S TELEVISION NETWORK, INC. (NATIONAL BROADCASTING NETWORK) is inviting prospective bidders interested to buy the following defective/ junked motor vehicles, various used tires and airconditioning units, "as is, where is" basis:

		Minimum Bid Price
1 lot	Nissan Bida (SDM 350) Mitsubishi L300 AUV (SDJ 567, SDM 270, SDM 230) Mitsubishi L300 Versa Van (SFG 388) KIA Besta Van (SFD 271) Forklift Various Used Tires Airconditioning units (Carrier/Durastar/Amana window type) & Daikin 3TR/Alenaire 7.5TR)	P 200,000.00

These items can be inspected at NBN Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City during office hours (Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.). All prospective bidders are required to post a deposit of P5,000.00 in cash (which is refundable) to qualify in the bidding process. ***Deadline for submission of bid bonds and sealed bids is until 12:00 noon of September 30, 2004. Opening of bids will be at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon of the same day*** to be held at the 3rd Floor Conference Room.

For further inquiries, please get in touch with or call **PEOPLE'S TELEVISION NETWORK, INC.** (Attn: Ms. Celia L. Yusiang, Tel. No. 9270171).

(Sgd.) **JOSE S. ISABELO**
Network General Manager

(PDI - Sept. 19, 2004)

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2002 Toyota Corolla LE M/T XGJ-286
2002 Ford Lynx LSI M/T XJG-531
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Republic of the Philippines
National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Caraga Region
Agencia Española de Cooperacion Internacional (AECI)

CARAGA FOOD SUFFICIENCY PROJECT (CFSP)
NEDA Caraga Regional Office
Nimfa Tiu Bldg., J. Rosales Ave., Butuan City • Telefax: 085-3425613/3417685
Email: cfsp_neda@skyinet or cfsp_neda@yahoo.com

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) of Caraga Region, through the Caraga Food Sufficiency Project, a Spanish Government-funded development intervention, invites all interested bidders/suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following items:

Item	Specifications	Location	Qty.	Budget
PackageI – Rice Mill and Mill Accessories (Preferably Japanese made)				9,691,000
a) Rice Mill	Multi-pass rice mill system, 1-1.5 TPH input capacity of palay at a moisture content of 14% and purity of at least 98%; milling recovery of 65% (min) for well-milled milling degree, complete with mill components and accessories including bag closer and weighing scale	Sta. Josefa Agusan del Sur Prosperidad Agusan del Sur Jabonga Agusan del Norte	1 unit 1 unit 1 unit	
b) Mist Polisher	Horizontal type 1.5 TPH capacity for good polishing degree, complete with 22.0 kW electric motor and 1.5 kW air compressor	Sta. Josefa, AdS	1 unit	
c) Grader	Double indented cylinder type of at least 1.0 TPH capacity complete with 0.75 kW electric motor each cylinder	Sta. Josefa, AdS	1 unit	
Package II – Mechanical Dryers & other Accessories				855,000
a) Batch Recirculating Dryer	6 tons holding capacity, drying rate of 1% moisture reduction per hour, increase in cracked grain not to exceed 5% reduction in head rice yield not to exceed 5%; Burner-gun-type, bi-nozzle, automatic ignition, kerosene fuel; Loading time-30 minutes, maximum; Unloading time-45 minutes maximum; Accessories dust collection system, electric and safety controls, fuel tank, access ladder	Prosperidad, AdS	1 unit	
b) Moisture Meter	Shoga III model, capacitance type with shielded drill, compensated oscillator, digital LCD with 16 characters by 2 lines matrix with I.F.D. backlighting, 99% precision, 0.1% resolution and accuracy of + 0.5%	Sta. Josefa, AdS Prosperidad, AdS Jabonga, AdN	1 unit 1 unit 2 units	
c) Tarpaulin Canvass	18" x 36" Heavy Duty	Jabonga, AdN Sta. Josefa, AdS	10 units 7 units	
d) Weighing Scale	Platform type, 1000 kg. capacity	Sta. Josefa, AdS Prosperidad, AdS Jabonga, AdN	2 units 1 unit 2 units	
Package III – Flatbed Dryers				1,350,000
a) Flatbed Dryers	Philrice Model	Prosperidad, AdS Jabonga, AdN	4 units 1 unit	
Package IV – Distribution Transformer				417,000
a) 50 KVA	Brand new Distribution transformer, 7620/13200 V Primary, 220/440V Secondary, OISC two brushing type, pole mounted w/ grounding lugs complete with accessories	Sta. Josefa, AdS	3 units	
b) 25 KVA	Brand new Distribution transformer, 7620/13200 V Primary, 220/440V Secondary, OISC two bushing type, pole mounted w/ grounding lugs complete with accessories	Prosperidad, AdS	3 units	
c) 37.5 KVA	Brand new Distribution transformer, 7620/13200 V Primary, 220/440 V Secondary, OISC two bushng type, pole mounted w/ grounding lugs complete with accessories	Jabonga, AdN	3 units	
Package V – Hauling Trucks				1,900,000
a) 6 Wheeler	Brand new units with cab and chassis and mounted with drop side	Jabonga, AdN Prosperidad, AdS	1 unit 1 unit	
Package VI – Motorcycle				150,000
a) Motorcycle	4 stroke, OHV, single cylinder 155 cc w/ telescopic front fork, suspension rear, swing arm with provision of 10 liters, fuel consumption of 40 km/liter @ 79-80 km. per hour	Sta. Josefa, AdS Jabonga, AdN	2 units 1 unit	

The contract shall be completed within ninety (90) calendar days.

Two copies of the following duly certified eligibility requirements together with the technical and financial bids, all placed in separate sealed envelopes must be submitted to NEDA-CFSP BAC Secretariat, NEDA Caraga, Nimfa Tiu Bldg., J. Rosales Avenue, Butuan City:

1. Application for Eligibility (forms could be obtained from the BAC Secretariat);
2. SEC;DTI Registration and/or CDA License;
3. 2004 Mayor's permit or municipal license;
4. BIR Tax registration;
5. Statement of Bidder that it is not "blacklisted" or barred from bidding by the Government or any of its agencies;
6. Income Tax Return for the last three (3) years (duly stamped by BIR);
7. Audited Financial Statements for the past three (3) years and bank statements for years ended 2001, 2002 and 2003;
8. Joint Venture Agreement (if joint venture), profile and qualification statements of firms covered with the joint venture or Articles of Partnership or Incorporation (for partnerships or corporations);
9. Certificate of Dealership from authorized distributor (if an exclusive distributor; include Certificate of Sole Distributorship);
10. Certificate of Acceptance from clients for contracts completed for the last three (3) years.

Application for Eligibility forms and Bid documents shall be available for issuance to interested bidders/suppliers from September 19, 2004 to October 10, 2004. The above Eligibility Requirements shall be submitted together with the technical and financial envelopes on or before 12:00 noon of October 11, 2004 and shall be opened at 1:30 PM on the same day. The opening of bids shall follow at 3:30 PM after determining the eligible bidders. Late Eligibility Requirements and Bids shall not be accepted. The Pre-Bid Conference shall be conducted on September 28, 2004, 9:00 AM at the above address. Bidders may not necessarily bid for all packages. Separate bids must be submitted for each package.

The provisions of RA 9184 and its implementing rules and regulations, and other applicable rules and regulations shall govern all participants relative to pre-qualification, bid evaluation and award of contract.

NEDA Caraga/CFSP reserves the right to waive any formality in the responses to the eligibility requirements and to this invitation NEDA Caraga/CFSP further reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, or declare a failure of bidding, or not to award the contract and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) CARMENCITA S. COCHINGCO
Regional Director, NEDA-Caraga

(PDI – September 19 & 26, 2004)

WANTED: CANTEEN CONCESSIONAIRE

We would like to solicit proposals from reliable, experienced and legitimate Canteen Operators/ Concessionaires for our Company, **JGC PHILIPPINES, INC.**

Please refer to the list below for the Basic Requirements for our Canteen Concessionaire:

1. The canteen concessionaire is expected to provide quality in terms of a balanced meal served and should employ the service of at least five (5) courteous, fast and efficient working staff.
2. The canteen concessionaire should have a working kitchen complete with heavy cooking equipment, and must be at most one (1) hour away from Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa.
3. The proposing concessionaire should have an existing canteen or food court business and should be willing to undertake a one-year contract (subject to terms and conditions that will be detailed later).
4. We offer each of our canteen concessionaires (the Company aims to have two concessionaires) the business opportunity to serve approximately 850 employees.
5. Our Company provides for the utilities, such as water and electricity. In addition, we will set-up a canteen area with chairs, tables, food trays and dining utensils for general use.

Please submit your pre-qualification documents, which should include the following, to the address provided below:

- Permits and Licenses – Business Permit, Sanitary Certificate, and other licenses.
- Location and sketch of the existing canteen or food court business.
- Location and sketch of the existing kitchen (if separate from the existing canteen)
- Menu and Price List of the existing canteen or food court business.
- Application Letter and other relevant documents that you could include to introduce your business.

JGC PHILIPPINES, INC.
Corporate Administration Division
(Subject: Proposal for Canteen Concessionaire)
2109 Prime St., Madrigal Business Park
Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City Zip Code 1780

DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines will receive sealed bids on September 29, 2004, 2:00 p.m., Auditorium of the DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City for the following properties on CASH BASIS:

CODE	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	MINIMUM BID
REAL ESTATE			
MANILA			
AM-CP-242	No. 15 Highland Drive, Blue Ridge Subd., Quezon City	858.80 m² residential lot (TCT No. N-251920) w/ 2-storey bldg.	P 9,300,000.00
BAC-10	Lot 2247-A-9, Interior Maytubig St., San Rafael District, Pasay City	405.40 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-143002) w/ 2-storey bldg.	P 7,702,600.00
BAC-11	Lot 2247-A-10, Interior Maytubig St., San Rafael District, Pasay City	398.30 m² vacant residential lot (TCT No. T-143001)	P 7,567,700.00
BAC-12	Lot 2247-A-8, Interior Maytubig St., San Rafael District, Pasay City	327.20 m² vacant residential lot (TCT No. T-143000)	P 6,216,800.00
CWB-7	L-26 B N-8, No. 19 Road 7, Pagasa, Quezon City	240 m² residential/commercial lot (TCT No. N-209559) w/ 3-storey res'l/factory/office bldg.	P 6,187,500.00
AM-PY-243a	No. 6 Balete Drive, Quezon City	2-units, 2-storey condominium units (CCT Nos. N-24864 & N-24865), 130 m² each (BCA-G & H)	P 2,512,000.00
AM-PY-243b	-do-	1-unit, 2-storey condominium unit (CCT No. N-24867), 150.60 m² (BCA-F)	P 1,512,960.00
AM-MC-244	57 Faustino St., Lawang Bato (Punturin), Valenzuela City	150 m² residential lot (TCT No. V-59978) w/ shop, factory bldgs. & 2-units candle moulding machines	P 374,100.00
AM-PY-220		228 m² residential lot (TCT No. 334416)	P 383,040.00
BATANGAS			
AM-JA-245	D. Silang St., Batangas City	159 m² commercial lot (TCT No. T-53084)	P 3,180,000.00
BULACAN			
AM-PY-246	Bgy. Matang Tubig, Baliuag	3 parcels of lots (TCT Nos. T-162317, 162318 & 162319), total area of 21,533 m² w/ 3-breeder houses)	P12,170,800.00
AM-CP-247	Bgy. Lambakin, San Miguel	40,000 m² agricultural lot (TCT No. T-138507) w/ 10-poultry/ warehouse/office bldgs.	P 6,268,160.00
AM-CP-248	No. 78 Dr. Teofilo Santiago St., Poblacion, Sta. Maria	250 m² residential/semi-commercial lot (TCT No. T-18584 M) w/ 3-storey bldg.	P 2,459,590.00
AM-CP-249	No. 287 Kaybian Extension Road, Bgy. San Gabriel, Sta. Maria	373 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-385268) w/ bldg.	P 415,400.00
LAGUNA			
AM-CP-250	L-20 B-5 Villa Consolacion (Conpil Village IV), Bgy. San Vicente, San Pedro	79 m² residential lot (TCT No. 536560) w/ bldg.	P 407,400.00
AM-PY-251	L-11 B-1, St. Joseph Village 5, Bgy. Butong, Cabuyao	52 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-545808) w/ bldg.	P 226,400.00
AM-MC-252	L-30 B-6, St. Ruiz Street, St. Joseph Village 6, Phase I, Butong, Cabuyao	40 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-562050) w/ bldg.	P 203,500.00
NUEVA ECIJA			
AM-PY-253	Vista Amor Subd., Bgy. Bangad, Cabanatuan City	100 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-114462) w/ bldg.	P 379,900.00
QUEZON			
AM-CP-254	Cor. XIII de Agosto St. (Nadera) & Calle Perpetua, Bgy. Mationa, Tayabas	9 parcels of lots (TCT Nos. T-416789 to T-416797) total area of 2,257 m²	P 5,421,600.00
RIZAL			
SUR-01	605 6th St., San Martin Subd., Bo. Muzon, Angono	240 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-5187151) w/ bldg.	P 872,600.00
CHATTELS (sale on "as-is, where-is" basis)			
AM-ED-255	Kabilang Gulod, Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro	M/V "Super 85", 85-footer motorized passenger ferry vessel, 185-persons cap.	P12,750,000.00
AM-JA-256	Bgy. Natividad, Pangil, Laguna	1-lot bottled water equipment (alkali-ion/electrolytic water)	P11,340,800.00
AM-JA-257	Bgy. Banao, Guinobatan, Albay	1-lot coconut oil processing equipment	P10,854,000.00
AM-MC-258	National Highway, Malingain II, Lemery, Batangas	1-set ice plant machinery & eqpt , 33-35 tons block ice cap	P 3,149,700.00
CWB-7a-f	No. 19 Road 7, Pagasa, Quezon City	1-lot consisting of pneumatic high speed overarm router/radial arm saw/air compressor/hand jointer planer/pneumatic nailer/pneumatic stapler	P 245,500.00
AMC-CP-259	Sariaya Imex Comp., Bgy. Pili Sariaya, Quezon	1-lot consisting of 7,000 liter cap. fuel steel tank/digital weighing scale/rotary mixer/assorted tools & scrap materials	P 37,500.00

BIDDERS ARE REMINDED:

1. To inspect the properties to determine their actual condition before the bidding;
2. To submit in DBP's official bid form available at the AMD-Acquired Assets, 2nd Floor, DBP Head Office during office hours; and
3. To be on time. No bids will be accepted once unsealing of the bids commences. The sale shall be subject to other terms and conditions which may be imposed by the Bank

DBP RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE BANK IS FINAL AND BINDING.

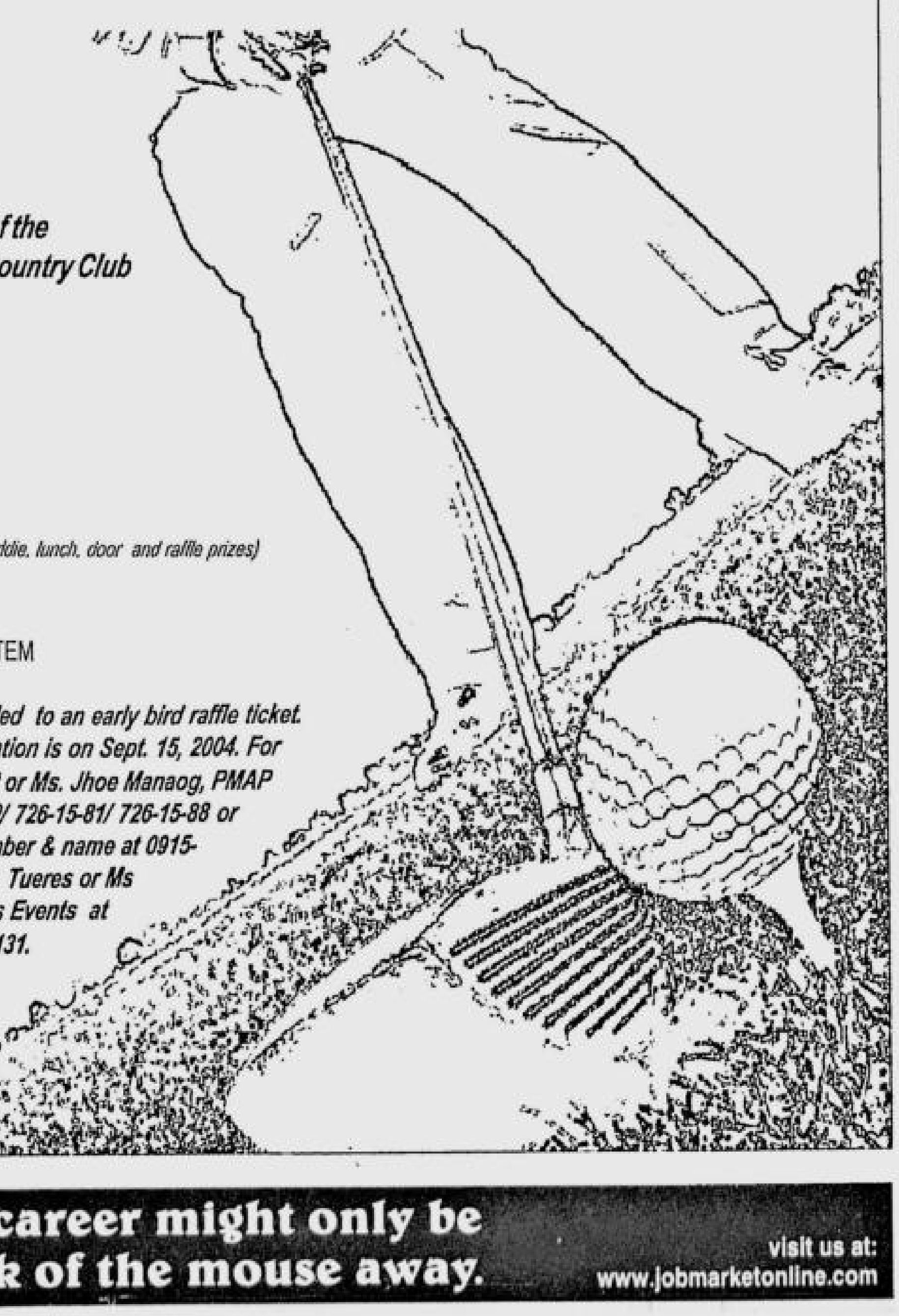
For Inquiries, please call telephone numbers:
892-1566/893-7172 or 818-9511 local 2218/2252 for Code starting with AM;
926-1686 for CWB; 818-9511 local 1457 for BAC and 1486 for SUR.

ASSET MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

(PDI – Sept 19 & 20, 2004)

The Personnel Management Association of the Philippines
Invites you to

The 5th PMAP Golf Open Tournament



September 27, 2004,
Monday
Tee-off at 8:00 am

At the West Course of the
Wack-Wack Golf & Country Club
(WGCC)

Tournament Fee
Php 3,500
[for non-WGCC members]

Php 1,500
[for WGCC members]
(inclusive of green fees and caddie, lunch, door and raffle prizes)

Tournament Format
MODIFIED PEORIA SYSTEM

Pre-registrants are entitled to an early bird raffle ticket. Deadline for pre-registration is on Sept. 15, 2004. For further inquiries contact or Ms. Jhoe Manaog, PMAP Secretariat at 726-15-32/ 726-15-81/ 726-15-88 or text your telephone number & name at 0915-4542977 or call Ms. Ana Tueres or Ms Nina Rubite of Solutions Events at 952-65-45 or 0917-8405131.

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We are a fast growing regional company specializing in network & security infrastructure. Our targeted market segments are service providers & large enterprises. We are looking for experienced & competent individuals for the following positions:

Sales Engineers / Account Managers

You will be responsible for selling the company's product and services into the respective assigned territory to achieve required sales quota. As a customer focused and technically competence professional, you should ideally be having 2 to 3 years of Enterprise and/or Service Provider sales experience and be at ease with general TCP/IP Network and Security technology.

Product Consultant

You will be responsible for selling the company's network and security product. Your job will involve product and solution presentation and proposal preparation including pricing information. You will find yourself to be in a vital technical and commercial role to assist in the overall sales process. As a customer focused and technically competence professional, you should ideally be having 2 to 3 years of relevant experience and be at ease with general TCP/IP Network and Security Infrastructure.

Channels Manager/Executives

You will be selling company's full range of solutions and services through distribution channel. A self-starter having 2 to 5 years relevant experience in equivalent channel sales capacity, you should have an existing networks and contacts of resellers, system integrators and e-business solution providers.

Interested applicants may send their comprehensive resumé with picture to hermie@netpaleons.com

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LICENSED OR NOT LICENSED
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- Male/Female, Single/Married
- 20-45 years old

Interested applicants may apply personally w/ resumé and original credentials. Hiring will be on Sept. 20-25, 2004

Monday-Saturday, 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Hiring Office
Suite 301, 3/F Central Bldg., Arayat cor. Malabilo St., Cubao, Q.C. (in front of Farmers Mall, 2 blks away from MRT Station Top of HBC)

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Woodstock meets Ragnarok

THE FLOWER people of the 60's, composing much of senior management today, faces Generation X, the entrepreneurial and mobile youth of the Philippine workforce, on Oct. 1, the finale of the 3-day annual conference of the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) at Camp John Hay in Baguio City. The Woodstock Meets Ragnarok segment, a mini-conference structured within PMAP's annual conference, will highlight the results of a joint research by PMAP and Ateneo CORD on the attitudes of young Filipino workers. Patricia Evangelista, the UP student who won in the recent World English Public Speaking Contest, and Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, president of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, will enrich the dialogue between Woodstock and Ragnarok when they share their thoughts on how to unleash the Filipino youth's potential for building winning organizations and a strong nation. Interested parties may call the PMAP Secretariat at 726-1581 or 726-1588 for conference details.

WANTED

- **QUANTITY SURVEYOR**
- **QA-QC ENGINEER**

Licensed Civil Engineer, Male, 28-33 years old. Computer literate. Must have min. 5 yrs. experience in Vertical / Horizontal Construction and Contract Documentation & Cost Control. With good scholastic record & good moral character. Proficient in oral & written English communication.

- **SR. ACCOUNTANT**

Must be a CPA, Knowledgeable in BIR Rulings and can prepare Financial Statement and other related documents. With at least 5 yrs. experience in construction. Willing to work on extended time. Female, 30-35 years old. Preferably single.

- **NURSE – Registered (M/F)**
- **EXECUTIVE SECRETARY (F)**
- **AUTOCADD OPERATOR (M)**
- **ELECTRICAL ENGINEER / SAFETY OFFICER**
- **PROJECT ADMIN. OFFICER (M/F)**

College Graduate. Computer Literate. Must have at least five (5) yrs. experience in a Construction. Knowledgeable in the above functions and can prepare bi-monthly report. Willing to work on extended time. Computer Literate. With Good Moral Character. 25-33 years old.

* * *

Pls. MAIL your Resumé w/ 2x2 colored photo, Transcript of Records/Diploma Employment Certifications, NBI & Brgy. Clearance to: **DDT Konstract, Inc., Suite 215 J&L Bldg., 251 EDSA, Mandaluyong City 1500 Telefax 727-3443**

Rizal Medical Center

Shaw Blvd., Pasig City

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Dr. Rodolfo Amurao – 0920-9244255
or May – 0921-6200743
(Vacancy – First, Second and Third Year Resident)
Department of Medicine – (02) 671-6397 Office
Dr. Tirso Jacalan – 0918-9300973
or 0917-8458372

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Bacolod – (034) 435-0011 to 13 loc. 11
Davao – (082) 221-9034 to 37 loc. 402/403
CDO – (08822) 727945

BUKIDNON FORESTS INCORPORATED
(A Subsidiary of the Natural Resources Development Corporation)
Assisted by the New Zealand Government
BFI Compound, Sumpong, Malaybalay City, Bukidnon
Telefax : (088) 813-2037 / (088) 221-2115 • Phone : (088) 813-2654 / (088) 221-2175
E-mail : bfibuk@mlbly.philcom.com.ph

BID NO. 05
16 September 2004

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID FOR THE BENGUET PINE LOGS WITH APPROXIMATE VOLUME OF 6,000 CU.M. IN VARIOUS LOG GRADES

Bukidnon Forests, Incorporated (BFI) invites interested parties in the bidding of various Benguet Pine logs in lump with an approximate volume of 6,000 cubic meters with corresponding estimated price of Ten Million One Hundred Twelve Thousand Two Hundred Eighty Pesos (P10,112,280.00) loaded on truck at BFI log landing site. The total estimated price will be adjusted subject to actual scaling.

Submission of Letter of Intent & Eligibility Requirements will be accepted until September 22, 2004.

Eligibility	September 23, 2004
Pre-Bid Conference & Site Visit	September 28, 2004
Submission & Dropping of Bids	October 01, 2004 until 1:30 p.m.
Opening of Bids	October 01, 2004 @ 2:00 p.m. BFI Training Center, BFI Compound, Sumpong, Malaybalay City

Qualified bidders may obtain bid documents from the BAC Secretariat upon payment of non-refundable amount of P1,500.00 per set. Those already eligible please furnish us copy of Wood Processing Permit (WPP) and you may not submit the other usual eligibility documents. For more information, please inquire at the BFI Office, Sumpong, Malaybalay City.

GRADES	DIAMETER CLASS (cm)	AGENCY PRICE PICK-UP PRICE /cu.m. (Loaded on Truck)	APPROXIMATE VOLUME (m^3)	PRODUCT DESCRIPTIONS
A	30 up	P 2,865.00	480	Without knots/visible defects
A2	30 up	P 2,600.00	1,680	With knots less than 10 cm
B	26 up	P 1,815.00	960	Straight with knots less than 10 cm
C	26 up	P 1,228.00	60	Knots less than 10 cm
S	20 up	P 1,100.00	960	Straight with knots less than 10 cm
SS	16-18	P 850.00	480	Straight with knots
R	14 below	P 450.00	1,200	Big diameter with 40% defects
P1	15-17	P 2,900.00 average price P 3,050.00	180	Electric post light weight
P2	18-20	P 3,200		Standard

The BFI reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals, to waive any informalities or defects found therein and may accept only such bids which, in its judgment, is deemed most advantageous to BFI.

(Sgd.) DENNIS N. RAMIREZ
Admin/R&SS Manager/BAC Chairman
NOTED:
(Sgd.) MANUEL M. CASIÑO
V.P General Manager

(PDI – September 18, 19 & 20, 2004)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

A SUBSTANTIAL REWARD shall be given for any lead or information leading to the arrest of:

LOURDES CRUZ VILA

Criminal Case Nos. 04-2417 to 04-2419
Regional Trial Court, Branch 132
Makati City

A warrant of arrest has been issued against LOURDES CRUZ VILA, whose picture appears above, for the crime of QUALIFIED THEFT THRU FALSIFICATION OF COMMERCIAL DOCUMENT. Her last known address was B2H Naga Road, Pulang Lupa, Las Piñas City and parents' address is #43 Fordham St., St. Ignatius Village, Quezon City.

Please contact DE JESUS and ASSOCIATES Law Office Tel. Nos. 633-96-85 & 633-96-56.

(PDI–Sept. 19, 2004)

JOBMarket ONLINE
VISIT US AT www.jobmarketonline.com

Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission
2/F Engineering Building, MWSS Compound
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City
Telephone Nos. +632 9265233; +632 4333446
Telefax Nos. +632 9265234; +632 4333444

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC), through its Inter-Agency Bids and Awards Committee (IABAC), is inviting bus transport operators to apply for the eligibility and to bid for the supply of the following service:

Contract Package	Contract No.	Contract Duration	Approved Budget for the Contract
1) Rental of one (1) non-air conditioned bus to provide a shuttle service from Kasiglahan Village III, Trece Martires, Cavite to Crossing, Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City and vice versa, two (2) trips daily	EPA-RAP-TA01	288 Calendar Days	Php 2,174,400.00
2) Rental of two (2) non-air conditioned buses to provide a shuttle service from Kasiglahan Village IV, Gen. Trias, Cavite to Crossing, Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City and vice versa, two (2) trips daily	EPA-RAP-TA02	288 Calendar Days	Php 4,348,800.00

All interested bidders shall secure a complete set of eligibility and bid documents from September 13 to September 24, 2004, at the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission, 2/F, MWSS Eng'g. Bldg., Old Balara, Quezon City, Tel. Nos. (02) 433-3444 / (02) 433-3446 upon submission of a Letter of Intent and payment of a non-refundable fee of Seven Thousand Pesos (Php7,000.00).

Site Inspection and Pre-Bidding Conference shall be on September 27, 2004. The venue of which shall be announced later.

Interested bidders are required to submit at the same time their accomplished eligibility documents in a sealed envelope and technical and financial bid proposals in a separate sealed envelope. The envelope containing the bid proposals shall be kept in a sealed box which shall not be opened until the completion of the eligibility check, and the list of eligible bidders has been finalized. Only bids of eligible bidders shall be opened on the date of bid opening. The bids of ineligible bidders shall be returned unopened.

The two (2) envelopes containing the accomplished eligibility documents and bid proposals shall be submitted to the PRRC not later than October 11, 2004 at exactly 12:00 noon. Late submissions shall not be accepted. The date of bid opening shall be announced later.

The bidders shall submit together with the eligibility documents a notarized sworn statement stating all their existing shuttle service contracts as of date of bidding, including newly awarded but not yet started contracts with the corresponding contract amount. The bidders shall be evaluated based on their financial capacity, technical capability and experience. The list of other required documents for submission shall be included in the bid documents.

All particulars relative to Eligibility, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contract shall be governed by R.A. No. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR). The IABAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason whatsoever, waive minor informalities, or accept such bids which shall be the most advantageous to the government. The decision of the IABAC shall be final and binding upon approval of the PRRC Board of Commissioners.

For further information, please contact the BAC Secretariat, c/o Ms. Amelita V. Gamay at 926-5234/433-3447.

(Sgd.) BINGLE B. GUTIERREZ
Executive Director

(PDI - Sept. 19, 2004)

PUREFOODS HORMEL

The Purefoods Hormel Company, Inc.

NEEDS

TRUCKERS

To handle its heavy sales volume this Christmas Season. The units will be dispatched from Purfoods-Hormel's Marikina Plant and Cavite Plant for deliveries to Greater Manila Area (GMA) and Luzon Provincial Areas (LPA).

Other Relevant Information:

Truck Type : AUV/s/Trucks (1.0-4.0 tons capacity)
Body Type : Refrigerated/Insulated/Closed Vans
Contract Period : October 15, 2004 to December 31, 2004

For particulars, please call or visit:

MR ERNESTO S. GAÑA

At the following address and telephone numbers:

PUREFOODS-HORMEL COMPANY, INC.
Barrio San Roque, Marikina City
Telephone Nos. 645-3251 to 55
Local 256, 257, 258, and 340
Fax Number 645-4535 and 646-9556

A FIRST-CLASS RESIDENTIAL CONDOMINIUM

Ortigas, Pasig City

INVITATION TO BID

A First-Class Residential Condominium wishes to invite interested security agencies to pre-qualify and bid for the following:

Title of Project : Security Services and Equipment

Scope of Work : Supply of security services and personnel with the required security equipment. The security company shall maintain law and order; enforce and implement rules, policies and regulations; and safeguard and protect the property and the community living within.

The following schedule of bidding shall be observed:

September 19-27, 2004	Issuance of Bid Documents upon submission of Letter of Intent.
September 24, 2004 / 5:00 pm	Deadline for inquiries and issuance of Bid Documents.
October 08, 2004 / 5:00 pm	Deadline for Submission of Bids.

The Condominium Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to the awarding of a contract without incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or is obliged to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of such action.

Inquiries may be forwarded to the office of the Senior Property Manager, Administration Office, at telephone no. 631-8591 to 96 Local 103/105.

(Sgd.) **JOSEPH N. BACTOL**
Senior Property Manager

(PDI–Sept. 19, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Negros Oriental
City of Bayawan
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The City Government of Bayawan thru its BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE invites interested suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply and delivery of the following items:

BID NO.	PR NO.	ITEMS	ABC	SOURCE OF FUNDS	DATE/TIME	
					Pre-bid Conference	Deadline/Opening Of Bids
04-161	04-1992	IT Equipment	329,000.00	General Fund	04Oct2004 2:00 PM	18Oct2004 10:30 AM
04-162	04-1971	Fertilizers	2,650,100.00	General Fund	04Oct2004 2:00 PM	18Oct2004 10:30 AM
04-163	04-1981	Various Materials for the repair and maintenance of Parks, Plaza and Monument	186,435.00	General Fund	04Oct2004, 2:00 PM	18Oct2004, 10:30 AM
04-164	04-1982	Various Materials for the construction of Portable Bleacher	210,150.00	General Fund	04Oct2004, 2:00 PM	18Oct2004, 10:30 AM
04-165	04-1987	Office Equipment Motor Vehicle and Other Machineries and Equipment	125,000.00	General Fund	04Oct2004, 2:00 PM	18Oct2004, 10:30 AM
04-166	04-1987	1 Unit Patrol Boat	3,000,000.00	General Fund	04Oct2004, 2:00 PM	18Oct2004, 10:30 AM

Place of Delivery FOB BAYAWAN CITY WAREHOUSE **Period of Delivery** 12 Calendar Days upon receipt of Purchase Order. **Warranty Required** 3 months for supplies 1 year for equipment. Retention money or special bank guarantee equivalent to 10% of contract price will be withheld to cover such warranty obligation.

In order to qualify for participation in the public bidding, the bidders should conform to all the eligibility criteria as prescribed under Section 23 of IRR-A of Republic Act No. 9184.

Bid documents shall be available at the BAC Office, Annex Building Sports Complex Building, LGU Bayawan City starting September 24, 2004 upon payment of prescribed non-refundable fee.

Bidders shall drop their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals in two separate envelopes in the bid boxes at the BAC Office, Bayawan City on or before the deadline of submission of bids.

All particulars relative to eligibility process, opening and evaluation of bids, post-qualification and award of contract shall be governed by the applicable provisions of RA 9184.

The City of Bayawan reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defects or formality therein and to accept bids considered responsive and most advantageous to the government.

Details of bid items are posted at the official website of the City of Bayawan, the www.bayawancity.gov.ph, the G-EPS, and at the GSO Bulletin Boards, Supply Section, LGU Bayawan City. For more information, please contact the BAC Secretariat at Telephone Numbers (035) 531-0636 and 531-0020 local 107.

(Sgd) PANCHO F. VILLASIS
City Administrator, Chairman, BAC

(PDI - Sept. 19 & 26, 2004)

THE HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO
Memorial Park
Mortuary
Viewing Chapels
Crematory
Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Trunk Line: (632) 846-2334 to 38

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2004

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RATE
P245 per column centimeter
(All prices exclusive of E-VAT)

DEADLINE
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Monday to Sunday
12:00 noon
Day before publication

Memorials Plus

Memorial Services Made More Memorable.

Flowers
Catering Services
Photo & Video Coverage
Horse-Drawn Carriage
Music
Balloons
Interment Band
Manila Memorial Park

Manila Memorial Park: The Plus Factor

Bayani San Diego Jr.

Ever the pioneer and innovator in the industry, the **Manila Memorial Park** once again leads the way with its new offering: the **Memorials Plus**. The first and largest memorial park in the country is now making its vast experience and resources in the field available to its loyal patrons, by making "memorial services more memorable and stress-free."

In this most emotional and volatile time in their lives, Park patrons will be allowed to relax and focus on the more important facets of the memorial service because the Park will take care of all the nitty-gritty details.

These details, after all, shouldn't take another second of their precious time.

As part of a special package, **Memorials Plus** covers such thoughtful amenities and services as: catering, flowers, balloons, photo and video coverage, music, interment band, and horse-drawn carriage.

Memorials Plus seeks to provide whatever poignant detail that would "make an interment or cremation ceremony truly unforgettable."

Memorials Plus can also be availed of for death anniversaries, birthdays, 9-day and 40-day commemorations, and other special dates.

Without a doubt, **Manila Memorial Park**, after 40 success-filled and award-winning years in the industry, has earned a well-deserved reputation for excellence in terms of service and customer satisfaction.

For more information and for arrangements, please get in touch with any of the **Park's Memorial Servicing Officers. Call: 893-8370 or 8938374 to 77 loc. 228**

On the occasion of his 1st Year of Homecoming with the Lord,
we lovingly remember

Dean Alfredo L. Juinio

Masses will be offered for his intention
at the following churches on Monday, September 20, 2004:

Church of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass .... 6 AM, 12 NN, 6 PM
University of the Philippines, Diliman

Sacred Heart Parish .... 7 AM, 6 PM
Kamuning, Quezon City

Christ the King Church .... 7 AM, 6 PM
Greenmeadows, Quezon City

Sanctuario de San Antonio .... 7:30 AM, 12:15 PM
Forbes Park, Makati City

Our Lady of Consolation Parish .... 6 AM, 6:30 PM
Mira-Nila Homes, Tandang Sora

Shrine of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel .... 7 AM
Broadway, New Manila

So Dearly Remembered on the Third Death Anniversary
of our dear "Mommy and Lola Azon"

DR. CORAZON VALENTE DIVINO - FONTILLAS

of Botolan, Zambales
who peacefully passed away in the company of
Mary, the Queen of Heaven and St. Josemaria Escriva
Holy Masses will be offered tomorrow, September 20, 2004
at the following churches:

Sta. Monica Church, Botolan, Zambales - 6:30 AM; **St. Augustine Cathedral**, Iba, Zambales – 6 AM, National Shrine of the Sacred Heart, SAV, Makati – 7 AM;

Monasterio de Sta. Clara, Katipunan Ave., QC – 6 AM, **St. Joseph Shrine**, Aurora Blvd, Project 3, QC - 6:15 AM, **Parish of the Holy Sacrifice**, U.P., Diliman, QC – 6 AM, **Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish**, Kamuning, QC – 7 AM, **Sta. Maria Della Strada**, Katipunan Road, QC – 6 AM, **Sto. Domingo Church**, Quezon Ave., QC - 6:30 AM, **St. Joseph Convent**, Hemady St., New Manila, QC - 6:30 AM, **Christ the King Seminary**, E. Rodriguez, Sr., QC - 6:30 AM, **Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal**, Project 4, QC – 6 AM; **Immaculate Conception Cathedral**, Lantana St, Cubao, QC 7 AM;

St. Francis Church, Browns Bay, Auckland, New Zealand – 7:30 AM; **St. Joseph Church**, King's Street, Whakatane, New Zealand – 9 AM.; **St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Church**, NY, USA 6 AM & PM; **Redemptorist Novena Church**, 300 Thomson Road, Singapore – 8:30 am.

We, her loving husband, children and grandchildren request relatives, friends and pious readers to join us in our prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

CORAZON DIMAYUGA-KARAAN

Peacefully joined her Creator on September 16, 2004 at the age of 78.

Her loving family, husband **Rodolfo**; children **Dina**, **Evelyn** and **Rudy Gonzalvo**, **Gigi** and **Pop Balitaan**; **Niok** and **Joy**; sisters **Felicidad**, **Margie**, and **Isabel**; brothers **Felipe** and **Claro**; grandchildren, great grandchildren, nephews, nieces, sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Sanctuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Marikina City.

Interment will be at Heritage Park, Taguig on Tuesday, 21 September 2004, after the 2:00 PM Holy Mass.

"I am the resurrection and the life;
he who believes in Me, will live even when he dies."
– John 11:25

Our Most Beloved

Anna Carissa Tiaoqui Gan

Peacefully passed on to eternal life to join her Creator
on September 18, 2004 at the age of 30.

She is mourned by her loving husband **Owen**,
parents **Mario** and **Ma. Loretta Tiaoqui**,
siblings **Mario Jr.**, **Christina** and **Juan Imperial**,
grandmother, **Rosario B. de Gala**,
parents-in-law, **Rodolfo** and **Lilian Gan**
and the **Tiaoqui**, **de Gala**, and **Gan Families**.

The wake will be at the Sanctuario de San Antonio Memorial Chapel,
Forbes Park, Makati City.

In celebrating her blessed life, funeral services will be held on
Tuesday, the 21st of September, 2004 after an offering of the
Holy Eucharist at 9:00 in the morning.

Her ashes will be interred at the Sanctuario de San Antonio Columbarium,
Forbes Park, Makati City.

Our Dearly Beloved

DR. RODOLFO DE MESA ARCE IGNACIO, SR.

OF CALAPAN ORIENTAL MINDORO
FORMER GOVERNOR OF ORIENTAL MINDORO

(JANUARY 29, 1911 – SEPTEMBER 17, 2004)

Peacefully joined our Lord and his wife, ADELINA LUNA, at the age of 93.

His bereaved children: CYNTHIA (†) and JIMMY BUHAIN, BONG and DITAS AQUINO, MARLYN and JUN LIMON, TOIH and BOOTS TRINIDAD, GIRLIE and CARY LAZO; sister SALING I. UMALI; and grandchildren: Don and Lennie, Danda and Miggs, Bodjie and Agnes, Bimboy and Angel, Bombet and Joyce, Bernice, Tyrone, Alvin, Ketey, Dong, Melissa, Patricia, Ryan, Allen and Denise, Arvin, Ninoy; and great grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the San Nicolas de Tolentino Church, Pluto St., Congressional Ave., Quezon City and will be transferred to Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro on Monday, September 20, 2004.

Interment will be on Thursday, September 23, 2004 at the Calapan Catholic Cemetery, Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

B/GEN. WIFREDO E. ENCARNACION (Ret.)

who passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on September 4, 2004

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy and who in countless ways, condoled and comforted us in our bereavement.

Absent with the body to be present with the Lord

Angeles S. Roco

Falecio en la gracia de Dios
17 Septiembre 2004
ala edad 97

Sus desconsolados: hermana: **Carmen**, sobrina: **Chiqui**, nietos: **Rica**, **Chas**, **JR** y **Charo**, bisnietos: **Ronnie** y **Adon**, sobrinos y demas familia ruegan una oracion por el eterno descanso de su alma.

El entierro se anunciara mas tarde.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life." — John 3:16

PEOPLE'S TELEVISION NETWORK, INC.

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION AND TO BID

Bidding Date : October 6, 2004

SUPPLY OF MATERIALS, LABOR AND TOOLS FOR THE FABRICATION AND INSTALLATION OF ALL PARTITIONS, TABLE (WORKTOPS), MOBILE PEDESTAL METAL DRAWERS, OTHER FURNITURES AND UPHOLSTERED FURNITURES FOR THE NEW NBN BUILDING LOCATED AT BROADCAST COMPLEX, VISAYAS AVENUE, DILIMAN, QUEZON CITY

Interested parties are invited to prequalify and to submit sealed bids on the above to be opened publicly at the Conference Room, 3rd Floor, PTNI Building, Visayas Avenue, Quezon City.

Specification forms can be obtained starting **September 21, 2004** at the Property Section, 3rd Floor from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. only. Deadline for submission of prequalification requirements will be on **September 28, 2004**.

All prospective bidders are required to post a deposit of P25,000.00 in cash or Manager's check (which is refundable) to qualify in the bidding process.

PTNI reserves the right to reject: any and all bids without offering any reason; waive any defect therein; and accept the offer most advantageous to NBN. Lowest bid does not guarantee that an award will be made.

For further inquiries, **please get in touch with or call PEOPLE'S TELEVISION NETWORK, INC. (Attn: *Ms. Celia L. Yuslang*, Tel. No. 9270171).**

Please address all communications, pre-qualification documents and bid offers to:

THE CHAIRMAN
Pre-qualification, Bids and Awards Committee
PEOPLE'S TELEVISION NETWORK, INC.
Broadcast Complex, Visayas Avenue, Quezon City

(Sgd.) **JOSE S. ISABELO**
Network General Manager

(PDI - Sept. 19, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Intramuros, Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) invites all interested bidders to participate in the bidding for the following:

		Approved Budget
I.	Security Services for the Department of Labor And Employment Central Office for the Period January to December 2005	P 5,298,906.05
II.	Janitorial Services for the Department of Labor And Employment Central Office for the Period January to December 2005	P 4,071,874.47

Interested bidders must register and submit registration requirements to the Property Division, Administrative Service, 2nd Floor, DOLE Bldg., Muralla Street, Intramuros, Manila starting September 20, 2004. The checklist of requirements for registration may be secured from the same office. Deadline for registration is on October 4, 2004.

Only bidders duly registered with the DOLE may be allowed to attend the Pre-Bid Conference on **October 5, 2004 at 2:00 p.m. for security services** and on **October 6, 2004 at 2:00 p.m. for janitorial services** at the DOLE Conference Room, 2nd Floor, DOLE Executive Building, San Jose Street, Intramuros, Manila.

Eligibility check requirements shall be distributed during the Pre-bid Conference or they can be secured from the Property Division, Administrative Service, 2nd Floor DOLE Bldg., Intramuros, Manila starting October 6, 2004.

Eligibility documents shall be submitted to the DOLE Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) at the DOLE Conference Room, 2nd Floor, DOLE Executive Building, San Jose Street, Intramuros, Manila, on **October 19, 2004 for security services** and on **October 20, 2004 for janitorial services between 1:00-2:00 p.m. only** in a sealed envelope marked with the title of the item/project to be bid and the name of the bidder addressed to the undersigned. Registered bidders are invited to witness the eligibility check on said date at exactly 2:00 p.m. at the same venue.

The deadline for the submission of bids will be on **October 28, 2004 at 2:00 P.M. for security services** and on **October 29, 2004 at 2:00 P.M. for janitorial services** at the DOLE Conference Room, 2nd Floor, DOLE Executive Building, San Jose Street, Intramuros, Manila. The PUBLIC BIDDING shall follow with the participation of eligible bidders. Late bids shall not be accepted.

Interested bidders are requested to present their proposals, personally or through their authorized representatives, on the date of the bidding. The DOLE reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any informality therein and make an award to the bidder whose bid is most advantageous to the Department. The DOLE assumes no obligation for whatever losses that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of bids nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

For further inquiries/information, please get in touch with Ms. Lily Pearl L. Guerrero and Ms. Liberty C. Angeles, members of the BAC Secretariat at telephone numbers 527-3480 and 527-3583.

(Sgd.) ATTY. MA. ANTHONETTE VELASCO-ALLONES
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee and Assistant Secretary

(PDI – Sept. 19 & 27, 2004)

AUCTION

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LED/LCD MODULE MANUFACTURING
Late Model ASM Auto Dispensers;
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Over 100 lots including: -

(4) ASM DS-500 Auto Dispensing System (2000); YAMAHA YM51 VM II; YV 112, (2) YM 84 S11, (2) YM 84, YM 66S2, Surface Mount Machines; (9) DEK 248/249 Screen Printers; (6) HELLER 1500S Reflow Ovens; (2) YUJIN YJAC Autoclaves; (7) YUJIN LCD Polarizer Attach Machines; (43) UNITEK/GE Tech Type III/IV Heat Sealing Stations; (7) ASYMATEK Automove 402 Auto Dispensing System; (3) UNITEK Pulse Thermode Controllers; (2) AUTOSPLICE Auto Pinsetters; (10) Asstd. Automatic Assembly Conveyors;

SALE CLOSING DATE: WEDNESDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER 2004 - 6PM
VIEWING: STRICTLY BY APPOINTMENT

For further details please visit our website: www.henrybutcher.com
or contact Maggie Alicante / Chris Major
Tel: 852 2910/11 E-mail: manila@henrybutcher.com

GoIndustry Henry Butcher
INDUSTRIAL ASSET DISPOSAL ORGANISATION

HENRY BUTCHER INTERNATIONAL PHILIPPINES INC.
Rm. 102 Jolliland Bldg., 670 Edsa, Pasay City, Philippines
Tel No.: +(63-2) 852-2910 * 11 Fax No.: +(63-2) 831-9587
E-mail: manila@henrybutcher.com
Website: www.henrybutcher.com/www.goindustry.com

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that the following persons are no longer connected with **INTERNATIONAL QUALITY MANPOWER SERVICES, INC. (I.Q. MAN).**

1. Michelle A. Calilero	effective 30-July-04
2. Trixx V. Villena	effective 19-August-04
3. Ma. Aletha M. Suarez	effective 01-September-04

All transactions entered into by the persons stated above for and in behalf of the company from the said dates shall no longer be honored.

(For POEA purposes only)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

MARIA "MARIE" REYES ESPIRITU of #97 Westpoint St., Cubao, Quezon City and/or Vigan, Ilocos Sur, whose picture appears above is at large and has pending Warrant for her Arrest issued by the Metropolitan Trial Court, Branch 51 of the City of Caloocan in connection with the Criminal Cases. Bearing Nos. 220705 to 220721 (inclusive) filed against her for violation of BP 22.

Please contact Tel. No. (02) 294-6461 or 294-6462 for any information regarding her whereabouts.

(PDI - Sept. 19, 2004)

Trans Co

NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION

South Luzon, Operation & Maintenance

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID AD NO. TRANSCO 2004-010B

The National Transmission Corporation, South Luzon O&M Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) wishes to invite interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid on the items listed below:

DATE OF BIDDING: OCTOBER 14, 2004; 1:30 PM

SCHEDULE	ITEM DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER	APPROVED BUDGET
A1 4 SETS	DISCONNECT SWITCH	3SL-04-120	P 19,400,000.00
A2 1 UNIT	PORTABLE SF6 GAS ANALYZER	3PSMD-S-04-040	P 2,800,000.00
A3 1 SET	DISSOLVED HYDROGEN AND WATER MONITOR	PSMD-N-04-164	P 2,800,000.00

NOTE: A Pre-Bidding Conference for Schedules A1 – A3 will be held on October 01, 2004; 1:30 PM at the OAVP Conference Room.

Complete sets of Application Form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from the Office of the Manager, Administration Division, SLO&M, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P500.00 per schedule starting September 21, 2004. No bid documents will be issued on the date of bidding.

Bids will be received at the Conference Room (OAVP), Transco-SL O&M, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna until the specified date and time of bidding above after which said bids will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. The procurement rules and regulation used in this transaction shall be in accordance with the implementing rules and regulations of "R.A. 9184".

The Bidding shall furnish as part of his bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to at least 1% of the approved budget in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, Certified Check, Bank Draft, or 1.5% of the approved budget in the form of Bank Guarantee, or 2.5% of the approved budget in the form of Surety Bond, penal and callable on demand issued by GSIS or a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission.

The Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligations to inform the affected bidder or bidders or any obligations to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of such action.

TRANSCO-South Luzon's other requirements are posted at the DBM Website: www.procurementservice.net and at the TRANSCO Website: www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) G.R. LISTANO
Chairman-BAC
SL O & M

(PDI--Sept. 19, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Regional Office No. 12, Cotabato City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Agriculture, Regional Office No. 12, Cotabato City invites all interested dealers/suppliers of the items listed below, to apply for eligibility and to bid for the procurement of said items to be distributed in the four provinces of Region 12.

A. **North Cotabato Province**
   1. Zinc Sulfate
   2. Zinc Phosphide
   Approved Budget - P1,217,800.00
   Source of funding: GMA Rice

B. **Sultan Kudarat Province**
   1. Zinc Sulfate
   2. Zinc Phosphide
   Approved Budget - P1,217,800.00
   Source of funding: GMA Rice

C. **South Cotabato Province/Saranggani Province/General Santos City**
   1. Zinc Sulfate
   2. Zinc Phosphide
   Approved Budget - P1,906,600.00
   Source of funding: GMA Rice

Minimum required Bid Security is One percent (1%) of the Approved Budget if in the form of Cash, Certified check, Cashier's check, Manager's check, Bank draft or Irrevocable Letter of Credit and Two and half percent (2 ½%) of the Approved Budget if in the form of Surety Bond.

Deadline for submission of Letter of Intent and eligibility requirements shall be on **September 22, 2004** at the Office of the Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Department of Agriculture, Regional Office No. 12, Cotabato City. Bid documents, shall be obtained at the office of the Supply Officer, Department of Agriculture, Region XII, Cotabato City upon submission of letter of intent.

Pre-bid conference will be on **September 24, 2004** at 9:00 in the morning.

Deadline for the submission of Bids will be on **September 27, 2004** at 10:00 in the morning while the opening of bids shall be held simultaneously on such date and time at the office of the BAC Chairman, Department of Agriculture, Region XII, Cotabato City.

The Department of Agriculture reserves the right to reject any and or all bids, waive defects or formality therein, and accept responsive proposals most advantageous to the government and assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify any bidders for expenses and losses that may be incurred in the preparation of Bids nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **MUSTAPHA G. ISMAEL, CESO IV**
Chairman BAC

(PDI - Sept. 12 & 19, 2004)

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ANGELINA "HELEN" ALMARIO TAMASE

June 1, 1932 - September 15, 2004

Loving wife of Marc Tamase
Devoted Mommy of Marivic and Glenn Crisostomo,
Marc III and Theresa Lacson, Marlon and Marily Elopre,
Marc Arthur, Marco, Marc Neil and Grace Perez,
Caring Lola of Alyssa, Arianna, Alexa, Kyle,
Zackary & Brandon

Visitation will be on Tuesday & Wednesday, September 21th & 22nd, from 12:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Woods Scovern Mortuary, 511 South Central Avenue in Glendale, California, USA.

Her remains lie will be interred at Forest Lawn Glendale after memorial services at St. Bernard Church, on Thursday, September 23rd at 9:30 a.m.

FR. LUIGI MOGGI, S.J.

was called home to the Lord on Friday, 17 September 2004.

Wake: Chapel of the Immaculate Conception,
Xavier University, Cagayan de Oro City
Concelebrated Mass every evening at 5:30 P.M.

Funeral Mass: at 10 A.M. on Monday, September 20
in the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception

Interment: Manresa Jesuit Cemetery, Cagayan de Oro City
immediately after the Funeral Mass.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF HIS SOUL.

Our Dearly Beloved Mamang

FELICIANA DELGADO Vda de LICUP

(Wife of the late PC Col. Arturo M. Licup, PMA Class '58)

passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on September 11, 2004 at the age of 67.

Her loving children **Ms. Carolina, Lieut. Col. Emmanuel Luis** & Marjorie Pena, **Dr. Generoso** & Dr. Margaret Cajita, **Ramon Martin, Romeo Feliciano**, Dr. Miguel Neil Bravo & Dr. Ana Teresa, Paul Sanchez & **Ma. Brenda**; grandchildren **Marinela Therese, Luis Isidore, Paul Brandon** and **Feliz Isabel**, relatives and friends request the pious readers to join them in praying for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the family residence at 17 Taft St., Sta. Barbara, Iloilo. Mass will be held daily at 6:00 P.M.

Interment will be on Wednesday, September 22, 2004
at the Sta. Barbara Catholic Cemetery after the
9:00 AM Holy Mass.

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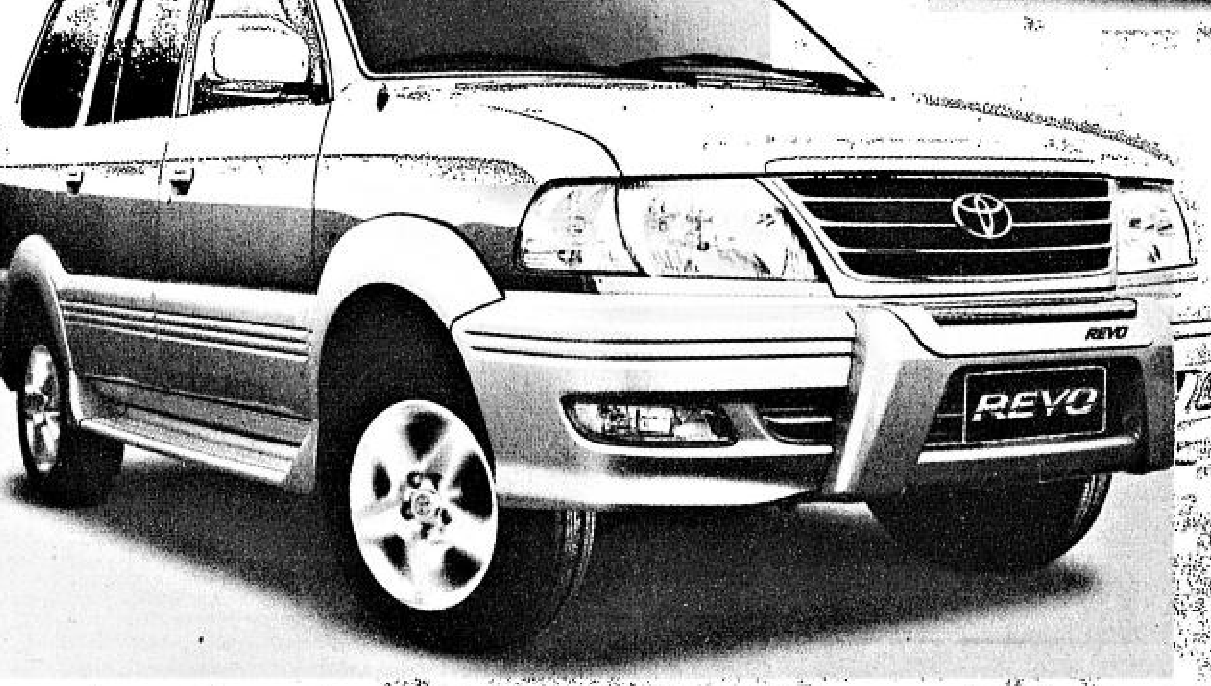
13. So you can go to the office without smelling bad
14. Getting wet
15. Getting mugged
16. Even if you go home late, you don't have to worry
17. No more haggling for taxi fare
18. Good for lolo
19. Good for lola
20. They're spacious
21. Good for long trips
22. Great for short distance travel
23. Can be used for transporting big cargos
24. Can be used to pick up chicks
25. Can be used to take Bruno the Rottweiler to the vet
26. They're very cool to drive
27. Great for barkada trip
28. Excellent for road trip
29. Can be driven in rough road
30. High clearance -Iwas baha
31. Can be used to pull heavy things
32. For lipat-bahay
33. Shopping
34. Porma-tambay
35. For drive-through
36. For stargazing
37. They're fuel efficient
38. Lasts a long time
39. Comes in different colors
40. Comes in different variants
41. Could be used to fetch kids
42. Fetch Tita
43. Fetch Tito
44. Drive Aileen to work
45. Great for hauling
46. They're stylish
47. Pangpa-macho
48. Pangpa-gwapo
49. Either can take you to the ball game
50. To badminton game



51. Bowling
52. To the soccer field
53. Both can drive you the movie house
54. Take you to the beach
55. Take you to the mountains
56. Province
57. Rivers
58. City
59. Take you to the office
60. Barkada house
61. Girlfriend's house
62. Good for Pampanga trips
63. Good for delivering books
64. Delivering itlog na pula
65. Delivering shoes
66. Delivering clothes
67. Taking ate to the delivery room
68. Good for transporting chairs
69. Transporting beds
70. Transporting pillows
71. School service for OB
72. Service for Pie
73. So you can make your own way
74. Make your friends happy
75. So you can do car-pool
76. So you can pick up your long time crush
77. So you can have a place to cry
78. A place to shout when you're pissed at work
79. A place to sleep when you're locked outside your house
80. A place to eat with your girlfriend
81. So you can go to Baguio without commuting
82. Go to Tagaytay with tatay
83. Go to Ilocos without being harassed
84. Good place to hide
85. Good place to take a nap
86. Make Mama proud
87. Make your neighbors envy
88. Make ate say wow
89. They have excellent Toyota engines
90. They have great safety features
91. They can make you look bigger
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93. Either can make your date like you more
94. Both can make you look strong
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96. So your mother-in-law won't look down on you anymore
97. So your sexy neighbor will ride with you more often
98. Maybe either can help you get a girlfriend
99. A boyfriend
100. They're wonderful vehicles

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RAV4 4x4 (50% dp)	1,268,000	634,000	53,784	36,915	29,237	20,973	17,044	14,401
RAV4 4x2 (9.54% dp) M/T	1,048,000	100,000	82,393	56,684	44,979	32,405	26,440	22,433
RAV4 4x2 (50% dp)	1,048,000	524,000	43,913	30,140	23,877	17,128	13,919	11,758

REVO

VARIANT	SRP	LOW DP	12	18	24	36	48	60
VX200 2.0 GAS A/T	970,000	100,000	74,910	51,536	40,902	29,468	24,043	20,396
VX240 2.4 DSL	958,000	100,000	76,507	52,635	41,745	30,075	24,539	20,830
SR 1.8 GAS A/T	896,000	100,000	68,235	46,944	37,260	26,844	21,903	18,578
GSX 2.0 GAS A/T	847,000	100,000	63,815	43,902	34,849	25,107	20,485	17,375
GLX 1.8 GAS A/T	807,000	100,000	60,206	41,420	32,881	23,689	19,328	16,392
GL GAS	698,000	100,000	50,373	34,655	27,517	19,824	16,175	13,715
DLX GAS (15.08%dp)	663,000	100,000	47,216	32,483	25,794	18,584	15,163	12,855
DLX GAS (50%dp)	663,000	331,500	27,625	18,417	14,261	10,230	8,313	7,014
DLX DSL	690,000	100,000	52,331	36,002	28,556	20,573	16,786	14,248

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TOYOTA

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Sunday LIFESTYLE
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2004
C1
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Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

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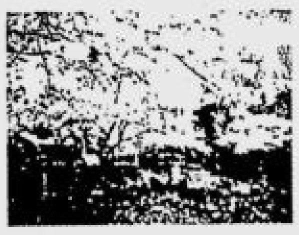

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INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

Stellar designer for sportswear

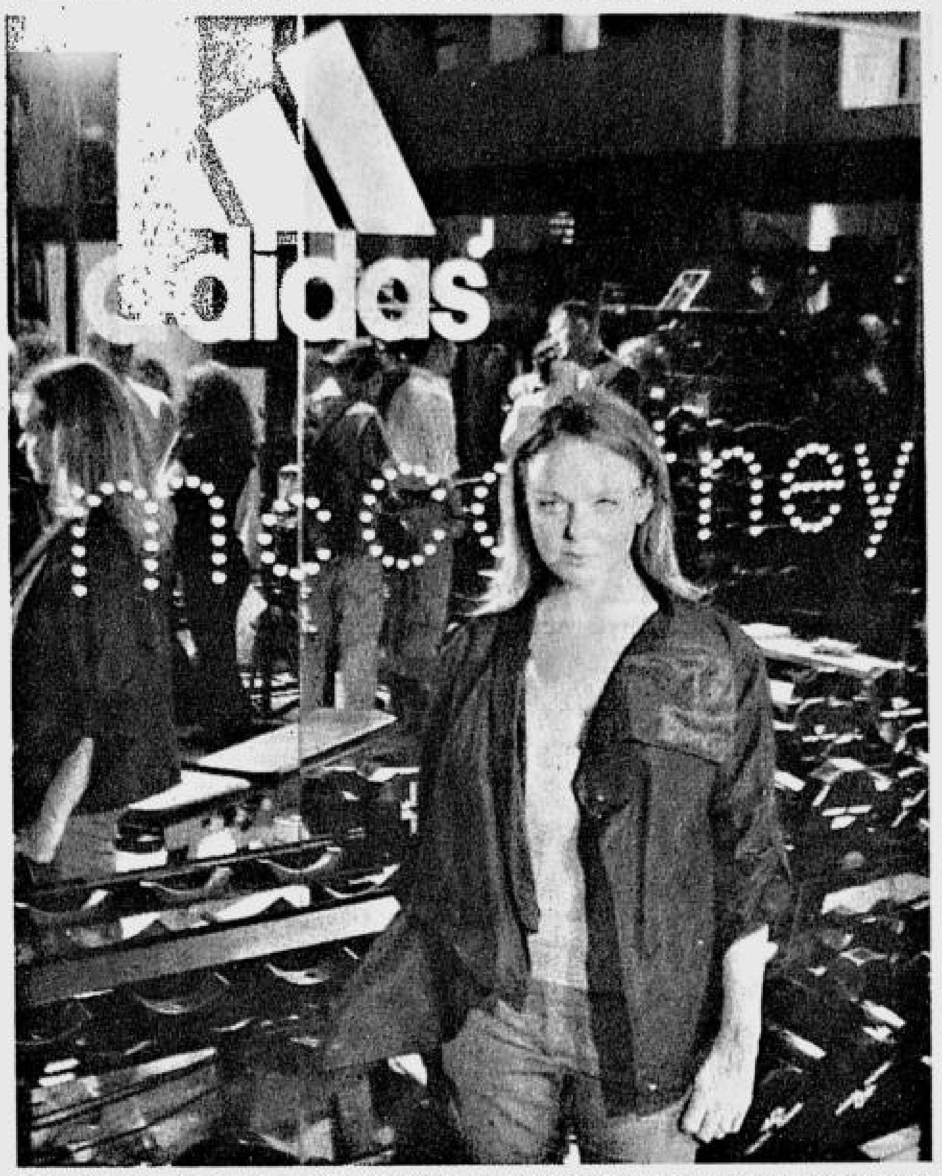
Paul McCartney's little girl, Stella, teams up with Adidas in scoring points for high-end sportwear

Text by Beia Formoso
Photos by Paula Villegas
Contributors

NEW YORK—Coinciding with the onset of New York Fashion Week, international sports brand Adidas chose to unveil here—and simultaneously in Herzogenaurach, Germany—its Spring/Summer 2005 collection designed exclusively by Stella McCartney, marking the beginning of a long-term partnership between the fashion designer and the sportswear company.

This is the first time ever a high-end fashion designer has created a functional sport performance range for women. Labeled "Adidas by Stella McCartney," the line combines McCartney's unique flair and design signature yet at the same time is "real sport product for doing sport in," according to Michael Michalsky, global creative director for Adidas-Salomon AG.

The McCartney collection is formally housed in Adidas' Sport Performance division, as opposed to the other divisions: Sport Style, a sports-inspired design collaboration with Yohji Yamamoto; and Sport Heritage, also known as Adidas Originals, which houses the "Respect M.E." line designed by rapper Missy Elliott.



OH STELLA, Stella, Stella. Beatle Paul McCartney's daughter is the first high-end designer to create fully functional sportswear for women.

A genuine innovation in the women's sportswear market, the line consists of apparel, footwear and accessories for specific activities such as gym/workout (including yoga), running, swimming and cover-ups which are pieces for warming up, cooling down or can be used as separates.

Picking Stella McCartney was no hard choice for Adidas as they had worked together in 2002 when the designer created a limited edition sneaker for them.

McCartney's career as a fashion designer started at French luxury goods brand Chloé, where she served as creative director for four years before launching her own fashion house under her famous name in 2001. It pays to be Beatle Paul McCartney's daughter.

STELLAR/ C4

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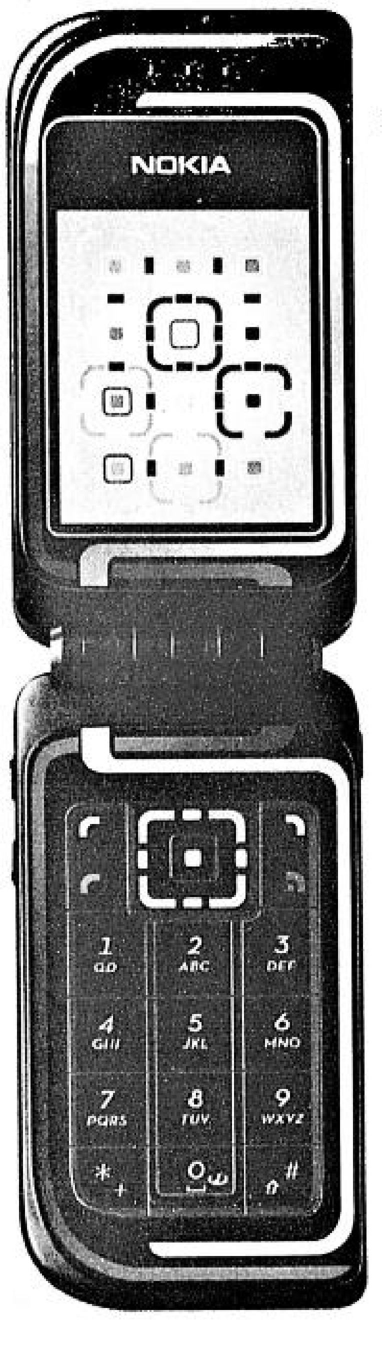
THE NOKIA 7280. Weight: 84g; length: 115mm; width: 32mm; thickness: 19mm BELLE BONDOC

THE NOKIA design team: Alastair Curtis, Tanja Fisher and Grace Boicel BELLE BONDOC



NOKIA 7270. Weight: 121g; length: 46mm; thickness: 22mm, with available talk time of up to four hours

FRANK Nuovo is responsible for the development of Nokia design. BELLE BONDOC

Mobile patrol in Shanghai

By Belle V. Bondoc

IT WAS an awesome display of skills and ingenuity, as cellular phone designers of different nationalities interpreted "objects of desire" through a fashion event.

The spectacle "Totally Fashion: Design, Desire and Decadence" was the backdrop for the recent unveiling of Nokia's latest Fashion Collection at the West Hall One of the Shanghai Exhibition Center in China.

Setting the tone for the two-day event was a lavish champagne breakfast at the exhibition center. Key executives of Nokia, fashionistas, and about 110 media representatives from the Asia Pacific, Latin America and Europe witnessed the launching of Nokia's newest line of mobile phones.

Nokia's latest fashion phones boast of seductive curves, delicate shapes, jewel-like chrome details which, according to the company's design team, is a true modern-day interpretation of the Art Deco of the 1920s.

The Finnish company has managed to remain at the forefront of quality products, innovative designs and fashionable styles. For the last five years, the company has kept its position as a top cellular phone brand throughout the world. In a research done in July, Nokia was ranked the second-coolest brand in the young market (aged 15-25 years).

"Consistency in experience is the company's edge over other brands," says Frank Nuovo, vice president and chief designer for Nokia Design. "It's like knowing enough about what used to be, what is today and what is about tomorrow. We've done a great deal of exploration and we have taken a lot of steps forward, and we have a lot of intimate knowledge about what works and what doesn't."

In a fashion spectacle in Shanghai, Nokia unveiled its new mobile phones designed to 'seduce' young, stylish consumers

Design concept

Nokia products have continued to evolve, with different design concepts being integrated to satisfy the ever-changing needs of consumers.

As Roger Tredre, an experienced industry and lifestyle consultant, notes, "Consumers are like butterflies, less likely to stay loyal and have a tendency to flit from one brand to another, so it's important to establish a commitment between a brand and the consumers."

This is why each generation of Nokia products, according to Nokia's design team, strives to improve the measure of usefulness, comfort and performance to keep consumer satisfaction at the highest level.

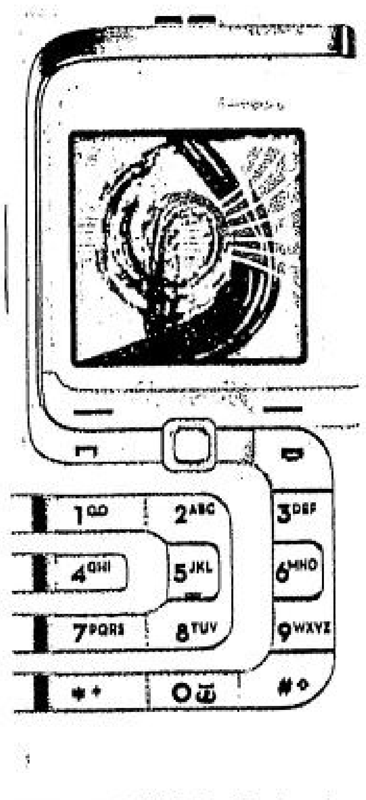
In designing its products, Nokia aims for phones that are easy to use, understand and learn; displays that are large enough for the task in hand; keypads that are pleasant to the touch; the highest possible voice quality; and size and shape that are comfortable and appropriate.

"It takes a lot to design a product," says Nuovo. "You have to understand different needs of different consumers: premium consumers, the classic ones, fashion consumers, the great/active consumers, of course, the conservative consumers."

Consumers are very particular about function and details. But many want a product to be both functional and fashionable. Designs take into account what consumers want and the focus remains on a more visual and interactive mobile communication, more than just text messaging.

The design team headed by Nuovo is composed of Alastair Curtis, design director of the Mobile Phones Business Group; Tanja Fisher, senior design manager responsible for the creative leadership and direction of the Premium, Fashion and Active categories and consumer experience; Grace Boicel, designer responsible for the selection and implementation of colors and materials for the products; and William Yau, design manager of Nokia Design for the Asia Pacific Region.

Fashion collection



NOKIA 7260. Weight: 92g; length: 105mm; width: 45mm; thickness: 18mm, with talk time of up to three hours

More than just a functional tool, mobile phones can be a projection of one's personal style and reflection of his/her lifestyle, aspirations and desires.

Nokia's newest Fashion Collection Series—the Nokia 7260, 7270 and 7280—take into account different personalities and styles.

"The collection is very universal," says Fisher. "It's about being very confident, very independent, believing in yourself, wanting to be daring. These models were created especially for young-minded individuals and the young at heart."

Flamboyant

The Nokia 7260, with evident Art Deco-inspired designs, helps project a confident and seductive look. Its chrome and steel accents and Art Deco-meets-Industrial Design concept are certain to be a favorite among the fashion-minded. Materials, graphics and color palette set the Nokia 7260 apart.

The phone's special features include integrated VGA camera and video recorder/player, high-resolution color display, multimedia messaging services (text, voice, audio and video), GPRS (General Packet Radio Service), tri-band, built-in stereo FM radio, XHTML browser, hands free talking, infrared, polyphonic ring tones (Midi, up to 16 voices).

Consumers can enhance the style of this phone with accessories like stylish straps and carrying pouches.

The phone comes in black and white.

The Nokia 7270's design was inspired by the '20s. Encased in an etched stainless steel housing, this fold design is very luminous, elegant and dramatic because of its textile wraps in red and black. The snap-on textile wrap is changeable. The handset is black and steel.

The phone has a built-in camera with resolution of VGA (640 x 480 pixel), video recorder, Midi, MP3 and AAC ringing tones, MMS, e-mail, chat, presence-enhanced contacts.

Additional features include music and video playback and streaming.

Sleek and sexy

The Nokia 7280 is a complete package in a small compact.

Sleek and sexy, it has a fine lacquer-inspired high-gloss finish (like a lipstick), complemented by leather and mirror accents. It has a unique NaviSpinner, quick slide and pulsating light.

The unit is very small that, at first glance, it may seem quite complicated to use. It doesn't contain the traditional keypad, but once you've tried it, you're hooked. The unit is easier to use, with a discreet, keyless dial.

Additional features include multimedia messaging system, built-in camera and video recorder, MP3 and AAC ring tones.

The phone's lean and sublime lines are perfect for young-minded, trendy men and women.

"With the Nokia 7280, marriage of design and function is quite obvious," says Fisher.

The Fashion Collection aims to cater to a younger market drawn to the latest fashion trends. Each design concept, according to product designers, is made for people who seek individuality.

Nokia hasn't set prices for the new products, as costs would depend on market values in each region.

In conjunction with the Shanghai launch, the exhibit "Objects of Desire," a synergy of art and fashion, was also held. It featured 11 designers from different regions who presented the hottest wearable art and designs, with focus on the classic styling of the '20s.

The Nokia 7260 is expected to be released in Asia Pacific mid-October, while the Nokia 7270 and the 7280 will be out in November.

E-mail the author at bbondoc@inquirer.com.ph.

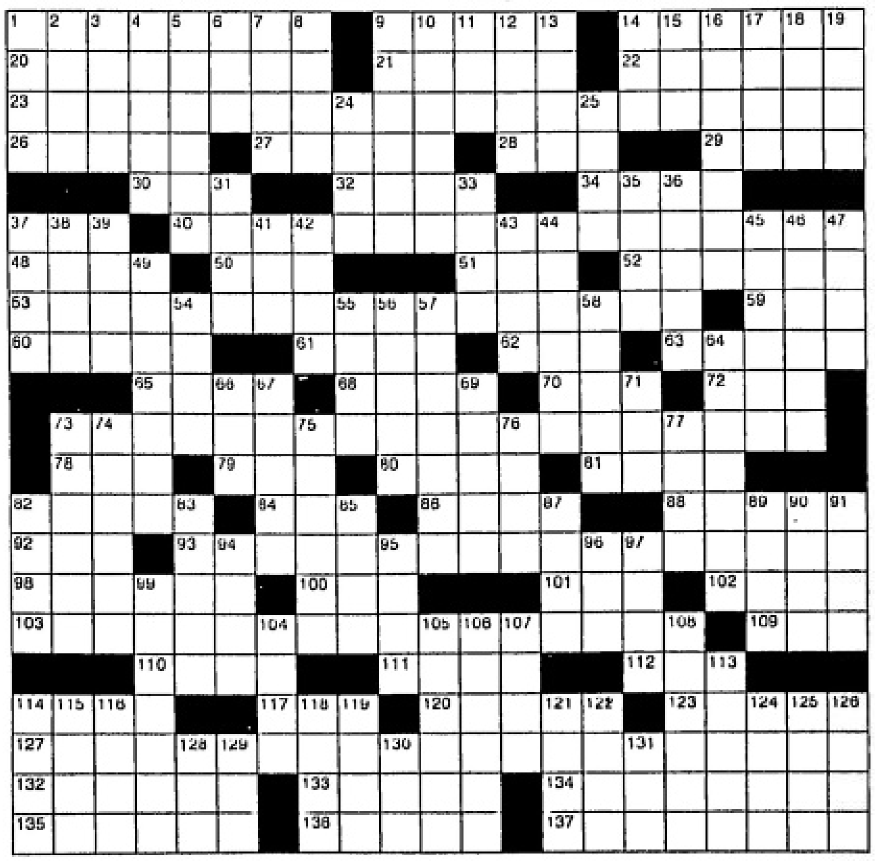
SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

TICK TALK

ACROSS
1 #1 Bill Withers hit
9 Assemble
14 Texas border city
20 Outfit
21 Up to the time that
22 Caterwauled
23 Start of a riddle
26 Salve targets
27 "Midnight Cowboy" role
28 Period before
29 Headliner
30 Pro — (for now)
32 Care for
34 Help a con
37 — -been
40 Riddle, part 2
48 This, in Tijuana
50 Horse morsel
51 Prior to, poetically
52 Intensifying, with "up"
53 Riddle, part 3
59 — roll (hot)
60 Bird feeder fill
61 Guy
62 Gp. protested in Seattle in 1999
63 Like a rock
65 Jealousy
68 Serpent's sound
70 "Nanny" has three
72 — Tin Tin (TV dog)
73 Riddle, part 4
78 &
79 — -friendly
80 Number of Muses
81 "I cannot tell —"
82 Fracture
84 King beater
86 Terse denial
88 Troll
92 Part of MoMA
93 Riddle, part 5
98 Julie who played Catwoman
100 "— will not!"
101 Pigeon sound
102 Window part
103 End of the riddle
109 Poem of praise
110 Actress Gershon
111 All there
112 Set down
114 Mix
117 Last letter
120 Persian monarchs
123 Pickle varieties
127 Riddle's answer
132 Sermonized
133 Walesa won one
134 Purplish seaweed
135 Genie's offerings
136 Ouzo flavoring
137 Rises

DOWN
1 Statutes
2 Rebounded sound
3 Compaq competitor
4 Trio tripled
5 Start
6 Ultimate degree
7 Dutch painter Jan van der —
8 Witty Bombeck
9 — burner (lab staple)
10 Ruined
11 Suffix with Tokyo
12 Tiny parasites
13 554, to Nero
14 Farm female
15 Schoolboy
16 Pause for refueling
17 Oodles
18 Nintendo rival
19 Scent
24 Envelope abbr.
25 Defunct
31 Frame of mind
33 "Eins, zwei, — . . ."
35 False god
36 Oscars' cousins
37 Chops off
38 Tennis' Arthur
39 Eye problem
41 Lah-di- —
42 News nugget
43 Have one's ducks in —
44 Spay, say
45 Fiddle
46 Baseball unit
47 "By gar!"
49 Last-minute entries
54 Lacks being
55 Satirist Mort
56 Boy refugee Gonzalez
57 Relaxing
58 Actress Braga
64 Shows the way
66 Geese formation
67 Youth hangouts
69 Man of La Mancha
71 NBC variety show, for short
73 Cubicle
74 Boxer's combo
75 — Mountains (PA resort range)
76 Alpha follower
77 Prefix with byte
82 Judicial seat
83 Military uniform color
85 North Carolina college town
87 Ruler unit
89 Lima locale
90 Merge
91 Novelist — Stanley Gardner
94 Qom locale
95 Excavates
96 Klutz's cry
97 Thwart
99 "Emma" director Douglas
104 Goof off
105 Misspends
106 Wolf down
107 Ship wood
108 Kook
113 Give in
114 Exhibit
115 Garr of "Tootsie"
116 "As — saying . . ."
118 Novelist Ferber
119 School since 1440
121 That lass'
122 "Leave this in"
124 Ships' diaries
125 Pol party
126 Footfall
128 Once called
129 Gridiron stats
130 Geisha's sash
131 Lupino of film



answer on page D3

MYRNA Borromeo, Fe Ng, Danny Dolor and Alice Briones

JOANNE Rae Ramirez, Criselda Lontok, Dr. Elenita Binay, Chloe Romulo and Baby Fernando

MILLIE Reyes, Mario Katigbak, Gilbert Perez; (seated) Becky Garcia, Mel Meer and Jerson Tan

WHITE TANDEM. Birthday boy Donnie Ramirez and Kaya resto's Kathy Park

Roof garden birthday bash

THE BEAUTIFULLY manicured roof garden of interior designer Gerry Contreras' gleaming Gercon Plaza building in Makati was the perfect venue for the birthday party hosted by restaurateur Millie Reyes for publicist-columnist Donnie Ramirez recently.

In keeping with the affair's color motif, Manila's social namedroppables came in cool, sparkling white. The celebrator himself wore a white pants and linen shirt ensemble from Bergamo.

Savvy floral stylist Robert Blancaflor created the colorful centerpiece settings consisting of vases of green Belles of Ireland, ecru roses and cream phalaenopsis orchids. Penk Ching of Pastry Bin designed the eye-catching fondant cake which had a dome on top and floral trimmings on the base.

As expected, the dinner catered by The Plaza was splendid. For starters, there were tangy pomelo-and-shrimp salad and smoked *tanguigue* with dill sauce. The hot dish selection was an array of mouthwatering entrées like chicken pastel, *lengua estofado*, *callos* Madrileña, candied spare ribs, *pancit guisado* and of course, The Plaza's famous Virginia Ham.

As a special treat to Donnie's guests, pals Mel Meer of Bergamo and Lito Perez of Camp Suki presented a mini-fashion show. The evening ended in merry singing with dashing pianist-dentist Larry Mallari providing the musical backup.

Truly a great party for a nice guy. Happy birthday, Donnie!

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THE SITE of the Adidas by Stella McCartney launch at the trendy David Barton Gym in New York

Stellar designer for sportswear

From page C1

"It was very natural to do a project like this with a female designer. There aren't very many female designers around in the fashion industry and Stella's definitely the best one in my eyes," claimed Michalsky at the launch. "Stella has a great talent for color.

Stella merges tailoring with street culture. She's very open, she's very young. She lives the life of the consumer we want to attract."

A gym-enthusiast and runner, "I was thinking of my needs as a young woman that works out," McCartney shared as her inspiration for the collection. "I think it's important to not feel embarrassed when you're going to go work out, in what you're wearing. I always felt like I didn't want to bump into anyone I knew on my way to the gym."

That is because women's sportswear, though a vast improvement from decades past, is still quite unfashionable and not wearable outside the gym. She added, "The garments that we have to work out in, I think, are quite limited in their style factor. I really don't think there's anything out there right now that marries both the technical side of working out apparel and the stylish side."

In fact, for research, McCartney dropped by athletic stores where she had "loved all the men's stuff, like all the men's sneakers, the colors and styles. [Then] I went to the women's area and it was kind of like 'My Little Pony,' like baby pink and baby blue. I didn't know whether to be insulted as a woman."

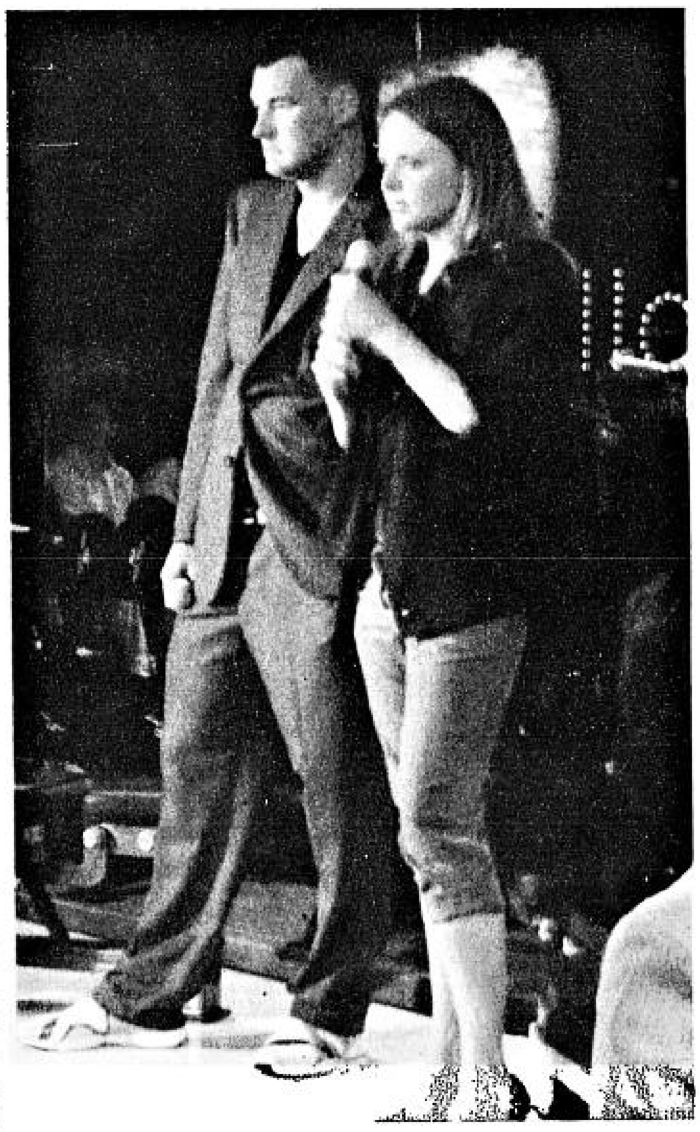
She also consulted Olympians and sport celebrities, including Steffi Graf and Laila Ali, who all had one complaint: "If the guys look so good, why can't we look good? We're athletes, too!"

Thus McCartney's sense of style and insight into women's needs, coupled with Adidas' technology and sport performance experience, has resulted in a range of sportswear that is truly made for women, fully functional and ultra chic, with clean cuts and details like bows, eyelets, knotting, in colors like dusty rose, hydra (a light teal), cocoon (off-white), pebble (gray) and of course, sleek black.

"Hopefully, with this line of clothing you're gonna be proud of what you look like both in the gym and outside of the gym," the formidable designer quipped. But it's not just about appearances; a number of Adidas' patented technologies are embedded in the range. The footwear features ClimaCool which provides 360° ventilation for sweat evaporation, as well as Pro-Moderator or midsole support and AdiPrene cushioning system. The apparel contains XStatic, a revolutionary thin metal thread that conducts heat away from the body acting like a portable fridge; and Clima365, which helps you stay dry, comfortable and perform at your peak in any given temperature or weather conditions. This must-have collection will be available in February 2005 at Adidas Performance stores only in the United States, Japan, and select stores in Europe.

McCartney's own stores in New York, Los Angeles and London will carry limited edition items. But it doesn't stop there, as Adidas and McCartney already have plans to expand the collection with a new category every season, such as tennis or winter sports.

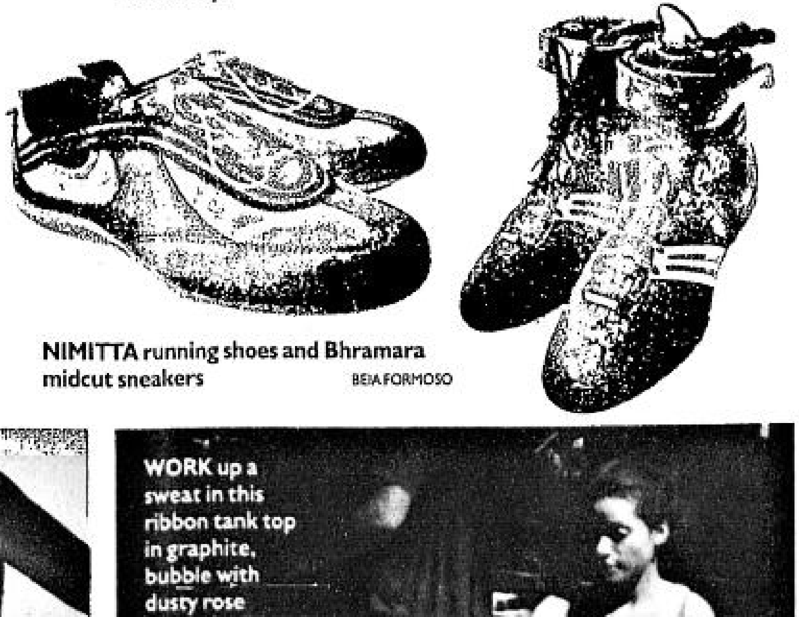
Declared the designer, "This collection is for women who take both their sport and style seriously. Why should we sacrifice one for the other?" Thanks to the new Adidas by Stella McCartney line, women won't have to anymore.



ADIDAS global creative director Michael Michalsky dons the special men's edition Kaitara gym sneakers in gold beside its designer, Stella McCartney.

COVER-UPS bathrobe in dusty rose with sahara and bubble piping can also act as a mat or towel.

BEST foot forward: Kaitara gym footwear in cocoon, cement and light polaris



NIMITTA running shoes and Bhramara midcut sneakers BEIA FORMOSO

FOR WORKING OUT: bra top in sentinel and pebble, cocoon track pants

FOR SWIMMING: Harana slides

FOR RUNNING: singlet in dusty rose, with sahara, bubble and graphite detail

WORK up a sweat in this ribbon tank top in graphite, bubble with dusty rose detail and graphite jersey shorts.

FAMILY, friends and colleagues eagerly snap up copies of the book, "Helping Our Children Do Well in School."

A new book by Queena N. Lee-Chua and Ma. Isabel Sison-Dionisio says kids who do well in school are the result, not of tutors, but of loving, responsible parents

Knowledge begins at home

Text by Anne A. Jambora
Photos by Rudy Esperas

DESPITE the proliferation of private tutors and numerous educational enhancement centers, more and more students, it seems, are not fluent in the basics of Mathematics, English and Filipino.

In fact, the Third International Math and Science Study (TIMSS), after a year of extensive research and studies conducted in 38 countries worldwide, has revealed that the Philippines placed a humiliating third from the bottom rank in terms of Math and Science proficiency.

Is there a dearth of intelligent young minds today? Are there way too many lousy educators? Are parents not attentive enough? In this overly critical times when knowledge equals power, who is to blame for this distressing news?

Crucial role

A new book from Anvil Publishing Inc., "Helping our Children Do Well in School" by Queena N. Lee-Chua and Ma. Isabel Sison-Dionisio, says that love, concern and patience from family actually plays a crucial, if not the most important, role in a child's performance in school.

Lee-Chua, a multi-awarded associate professor in Math at the Ateneo de Manila University, says the problem with Filipino parents is they often put the blame for their children's shortcomings in class on the school system alone, rather than accepting the responsibilities themselves.

"Too busy with work" is a popular excuse parents say when asked why they can't spend more time with the kids. Or that they have to work doubly hard to pay for exorbitant tuition. Because of this, Lee-Chua says parents seek out "strangers" instead for help. And that's how the demand for tutors and learning centers was born.

"Parents always ask if I could recommend a good tutor or center for this or that subject. Never once has any parent asked me: What can I do for my kid?" she says.

So-called enrichment centers fill up three weeks before exams, but that is not the way to go if parents want to inculcate solid study habits into their children, says Lee-Chua. Part of the problem is the kids' lack of study habits and zero motivation to learn.

Another common excuse from parents whose children are lagging behind in math, for instance, is that they can't help their kids in a subject they themselves are not good at.

"How old is your kid? Is he or she in Algebra already?" Lee-Chua would ask.

"Grade 1."

"Anybody can do Math in Grade 1!"

Authentic parenting

QUEENA N. Lee-Chua

The book, she says, thus aims to bring authentic parenting back, by asking moms and dads to take responsibility not just for their children's health and happiness but for their academic development as well. From her over 15 years of teaching experience, Lee-Chua notes that students with the best child-parent communication are the ones doing well in school.

"Helping your children with their homework doesn't have to be a torture. I always advice at least one hour a day, with a parent as much as possible, or any family member who has a stake in the kid's well-being," she says.

Indeed, a paid tutor by the hour, who is only concerned with money, will not stick it out with the child until s/he learns. But a family member will.

MA. Isabel Sison-Dionisio signing copies of the book

In Singapore, says Lee-Chua, the country that made it to the top list of TIMSS, parents, despite high-profile and extremely demanding jobs, somehow find time to sit down with their children and personally help them out with their homework after school. If Singaporean parents can master balancing their busy schedule, why can't Filipinos?

"The basic unit of society is still the family. Parents must look for activities where they can integrate their children. This book says parents have to juggle and give up certain things when the children are still young, because there's no rewinding. When the damage is done, it is there," says parenting consultant and marriage counselor Sison-Dionisio.

The first five to seven years of a child is very demanding, she says, that if parents decide to get an 8-5 job they must always try to make it home in time to relax and be with their kids. Such active parenting is temporary, and shifts as the children grow up.

"If you try to aim for everything at 10-15 years of marriage and you have three kids, something is going to be problematic along the way," adds Sison-Dionisio. And when there are too many marital problems, parents become ineffective, and more often than not, children end up shortchanged.

Tips and strategies

The book offers 10 strategies on how parents can help their kids do well in school: develop in them good study habits, create a conducive environment, communicate with kids regularly, encourage a love for reading, ensure solid grounding in the fundamentals, emphasize effort over ability, promote genuine self-worth, discipline with love, set personal, academic and life goals, and be there for family.

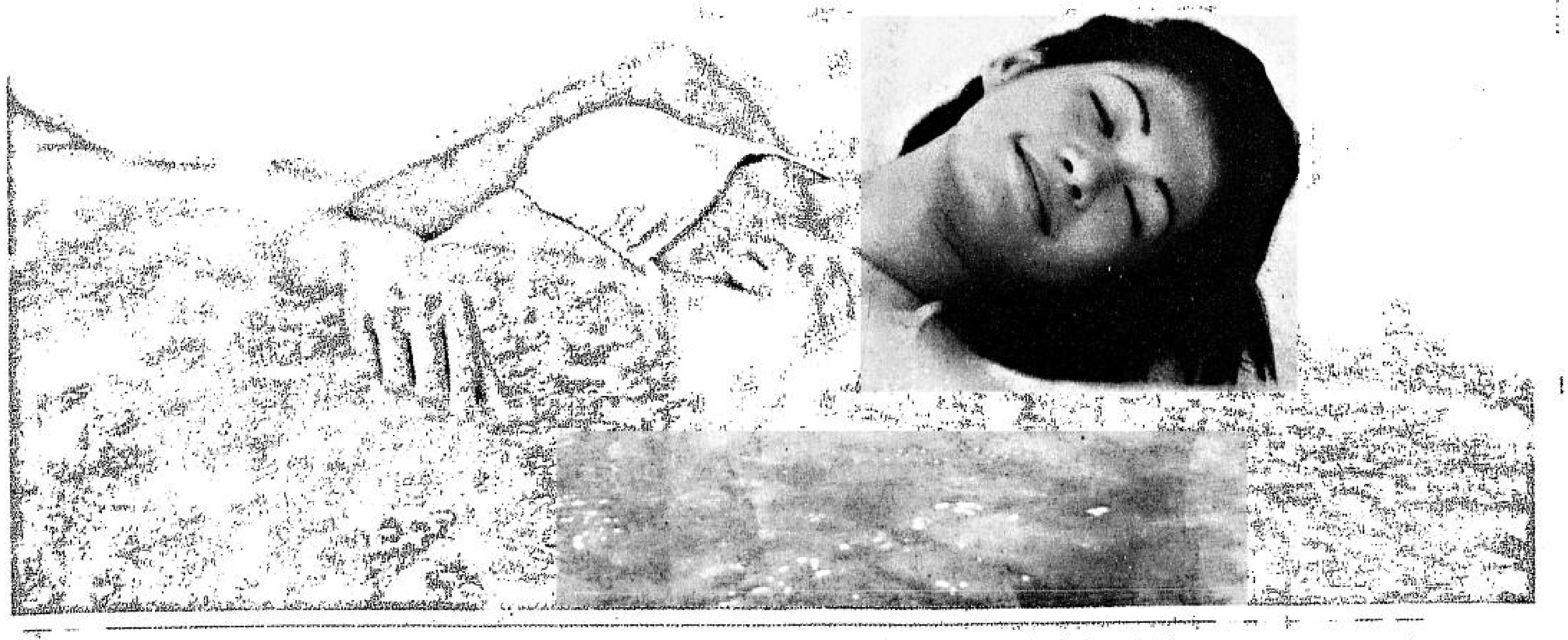
The strategies are based on a Best Practices Survey conducted by the Ateneo de Manila High School on more than 500 parents of honor students, athletes, student leaders. There are more than 200 hands-on strategies on how these principles can be adapted in daily life, including real-life cases gathered from focus-group discussions, plus both the authors' personal experiences in parenting.

A supplement to the main book, "A Companion Manual to Helping our Children Do Well in School," contains additional strategies and topics: spotting possible learning disorders, parenting styles, computer addiction, etc. The companion manual also functions as a checklist that parents can use once they have successfully hammered down the strategies in the main book.

As Lee-Chua puts it, "Your children are too important to be left to the care of others—even to so-called experts."

Available at National Book Store and PowerBooks

E-mail the author at ajambora@inquirer.com.ph



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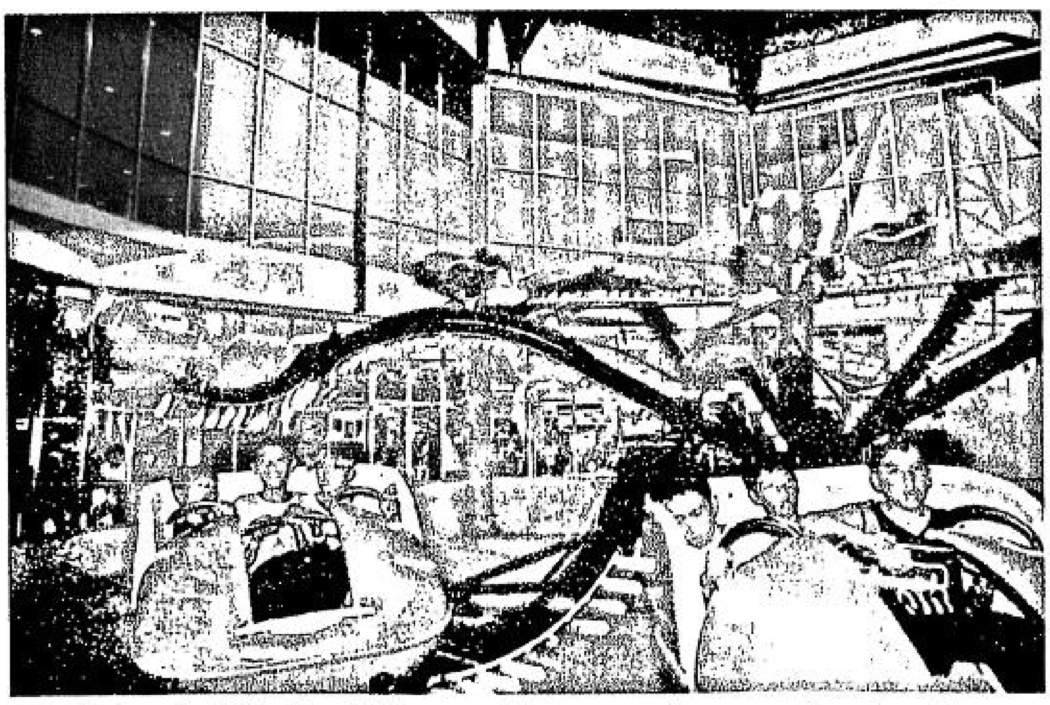
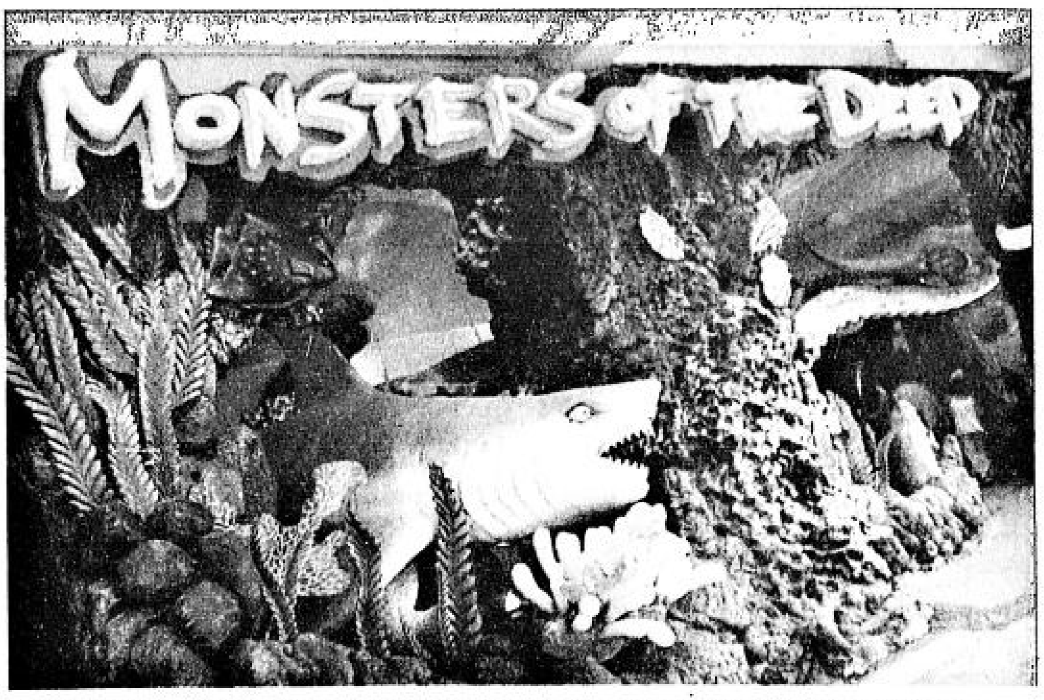


STAR City's popular Spider ride will shake, toss and spin you around as you squeal in excitement.



BUNDLE up as your whole family dives to the depths of the world's great oceans in Star City's latest frozen ice palace attraction, Monsters of the Deep.

ENJOY great new shopping, food and ride features the whole family will love.

DARE your friends to try 360 degrees of heart-stopping screaming thrills on the Zyklon Loop Coaster.

LET your kids take the wheel this Christmas and make this season their most fun ever. The Bumper Boats is just one of over 30 rides and attractions available at Star City.

Welcome to Happy City

STAND up and be counted as the fairyland gates of Star City swing wide open for its much-awaited Christmas season extravaganza this September.

For over a decade now, holidaymakers flock to Star City to try out new attractions or return to their favorite rides in this one-stop total entertainment center. Strategically located at the heart of Manila, it is a favorite stop not only for families and *barkadas*, but also for busloads of excursion tourists, students on school field trips, employees taking a breather at company outings, even relatives or old classmates on the lookout for a novel and exciting way to celebrate their reunions.

"We are the only recreation park in the country that mixes rides, attractions, games and shows with a wide variety of food and shopping outlets all in one venue," says Star City Vice President for Operations Santi Elizalde. "In addition to this, we have not had any significant price increases over the past three years."

Value for money has always been a major attraction at Star City. A P20 entrance ticket lets you enjoy all-day shopping at almost 300 retail shops spread conveniently all over the sprawling complex, selling everything from toys and gifts to apparels, shoes and bags, jewelry and fashion accessories, personal care products, electronics and household items, mobile phones, sports equipment and hobby kits, home furnishings and bric-a-brac, handyman tools and active gear, even books and magazines. The theme park also hosts over 180 restos, bars and food stops.

With the P150 "Ride-All-You-Can" offer, park goers are given a pop tag that allows unlimited access to all of the park's rides, walk-through attractions and theater shows for the entire day.

PITCH over the falls with your whole *barkada* on the Wild River and watch for that splash because you're gonna get soaked!

Star City's latest walk-through attractions are ready to be unveiled this month. Take a trip to an imaginary world in a dreamlike tableau featuring over 50 characters that include beautiful mermaids, fairies and other enchanted creatures.

Another novel feature opening this season is "Monsters of the Deep," which will bring you to an "underwater" escapade featuring colossal ice sculptures of some of the most beautiful creatures of the deep.

Still a crowd drawer, the "Lion is King" is the country's first and only total immersion theme park theater attraction. Housed in an impressive "mountain," it features a dreamlike jungle setting, where live actors in fabulous masks and lavish costumes enact the classic triumph of good over evil. Likewise, "The Mummy" continues to send shivers up the spine of those who dare to discover the secrets of this spine-tingling, blood-chilling walk-through masterpiece.

After an exhilarating journey through these amusement halls, swing over the waves on the "Viking" and soar above the crowd on the country's largest "Flying Carpet" ride. Don't miss out on the staple carnival features like kiddie rides, bumper cars and the video arcade, the eye-catching Grand Carousel and Balloon Wheel, as well as the breathtaking Wild River Ride, the Super Viking and the heat-thumping Zyklon with its 360-degree loop.

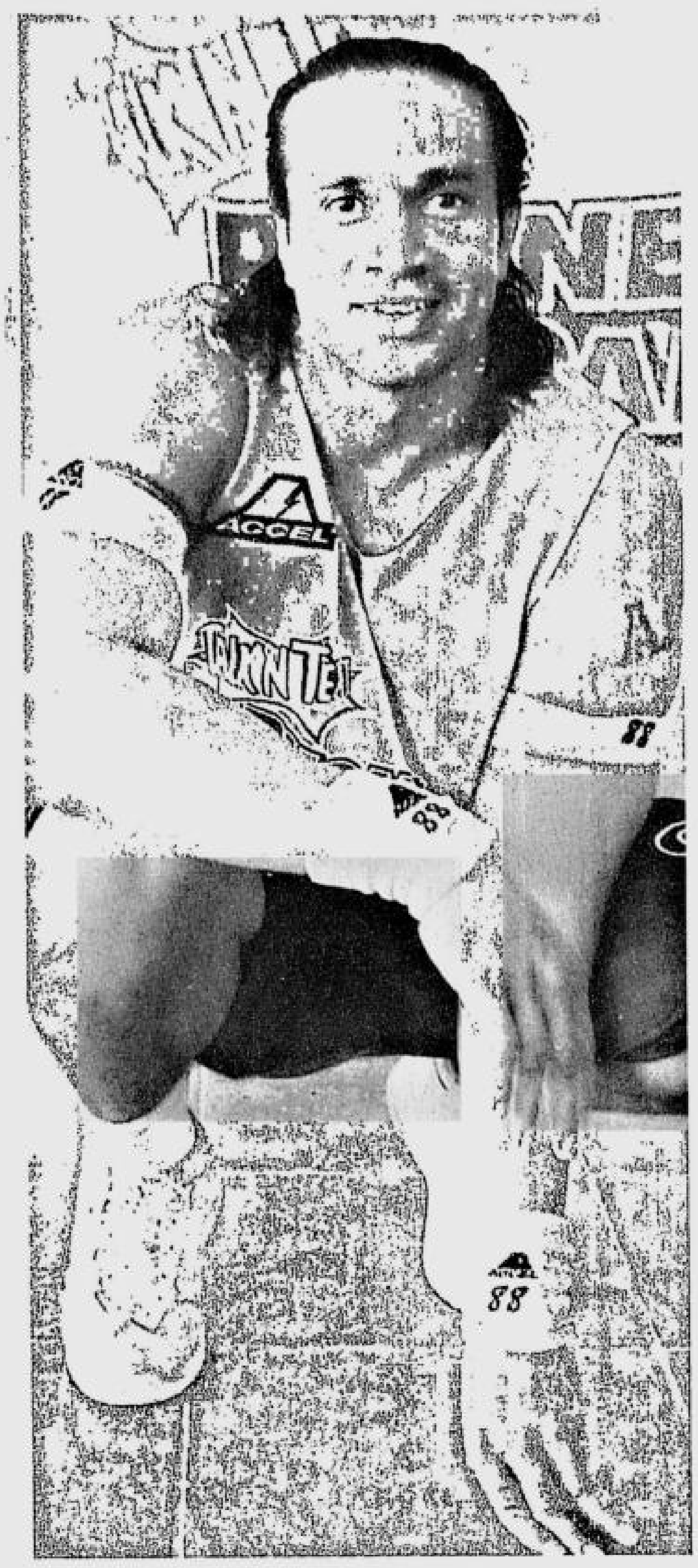
Over at the Aliw Theater, Circus de Ballet continues to dazzle thousands of parkgoers with its awesome productions of "Belen," "Can-Can" and "Princess of the Moon." Here, the country's top circus performers share the stage with the country's most popular ballet company, Ballet Manila, under artistic director and principal ballerina Lisa Macuja-Elizalde.

Star City opens on Sept. 18, from 4 p.m. onwards. It is conveniently located at the CCP Complex along Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.

GABI NG LAGIM

BASED on the country's most popular radio drama, Gabi ng Lagim conjures the most ghastly ghouls in Filipino folklore. This is not an attraction for the faint of heart, so say your prayers before entering.

Hoop dreams



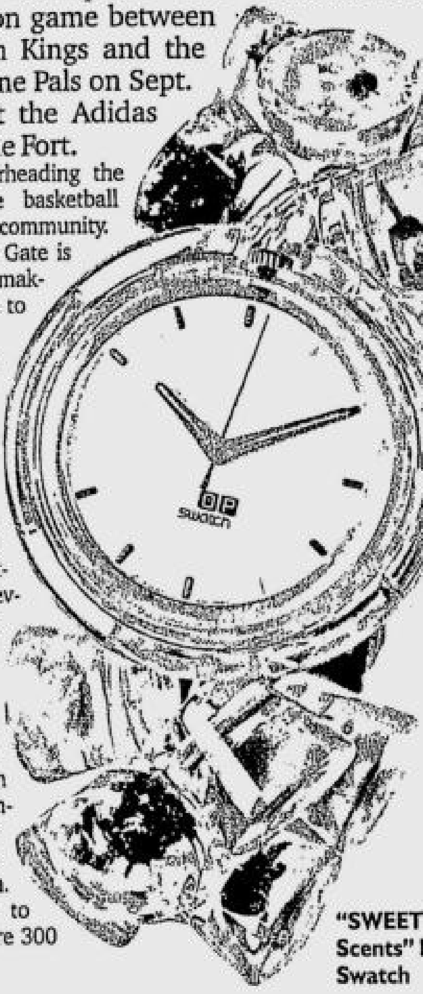
MAKE-A-WISH kid Jay-R's favorite player, Swatch endorser Asi Taulava, has already taken time out to visit Jay-R.

JAY-R Mingao's fervent wish is to build a basketball court for members of his community in Tramo Dos, Palanyag, Barangay San Dionisio, Parañaque City. Through the help of the Make-A-Wish Foundation and Faith Basketball, Jay-R's wish has a chance to become a reality as they join forces to help raise funds through "Champions United," an exhibition game between the Ginebra Gin Kings and the Talk N' Text Phone Pals on Sept. 25 at 6 p.m. at the Adidas Sports Kamp, The Fort.

Gift Gate is spearheading the construction of the basketball court for Jay-R's community. Aside from this, Gift Gate is sharing the power of making wishes come true to all its customers.

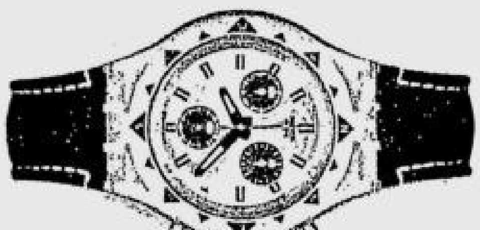
Every purchase at Swatch Stores and Kiosks of a Swatch watch, Swatch Bijoux or Flik Flak watches from now until Sept. 24 entitles the customer to two tickets to the exhibition game. However, the customer has the option to donate the tickets and sponsor a Make-A-Wish kid to watch the game instead and make a dream come true for the other MAWF kids who want to see their basketball idols in action. To be given away to Swatch customers are 300 seats.

LOOK at the stars and make a wish come true... Mysterious Flik Flak comes with its own telescope.

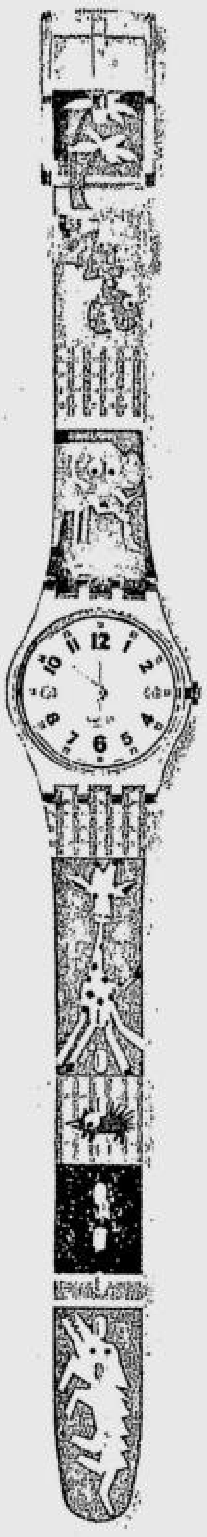


"SWEET Scents" POP Swatch

"WINDFALL" Swatch Irony



"BURRASCA" Swatch Irony Diaphane



ANYTIME is playtime with Swatch "At the Zoo."

Was it the chauffeur or the papaitan?

We've never figured it out really, what worked better in the end, but we're thankful anyway.

Mrs. Gwen Roces had always been accompanied by her husband to the bank. He'd open the door for her, see her through, explain what the forms were for, tell her where to sign. And she'd always be listening cheerfully, her pen flashing in compliance. She was glad, we guessed, to have someone sorting out all the forms and procedures for her.

But the day came when Mr. Roces, quite regrettably, passed away. And our account with his wife appeared doomed to follow in his footsteps as well.

Until we remembered that she had never, in all her years with us, come to the bank by herself. It was always an adventure she embarked upon with her husband. And something we couldn't expect her to do alone.

So we arranged for a driver to pick her up at her house and bring her over. Smiling awkwardly, she stepped into the car. And just as awkwardly, we stepped into the role long reserved for her husband.

Smile by smile, we navigated the course of her transactions with her. And told her that if she wanted, we could keep on doing the same thing for her every time she needed to visit the bank. Her smile was all the yes we needed.

We took her to lunch, too, that day. To a place that, to our knowledge, served the best papaitan in Manila (we had learned earlier that it was, strangely enough, her favorite dish). She talked about how she was coping with the loss of her husband, about how the house seemed too big now, about how helpful people had been to her. And how the papaitan fell somehow short of its billing.

We had the driver bring her back home and we heard nothing from Mrs. Roces for the next two weeks. And then she called, asking to be picked up. She had some deposits to make, she said. And a newly cooked pot full of what was truly, as we discovered, the best papaitan in Manila.

(If this doesn't sound like the kind of relationship you have with your bank, you may want to give us a try.)

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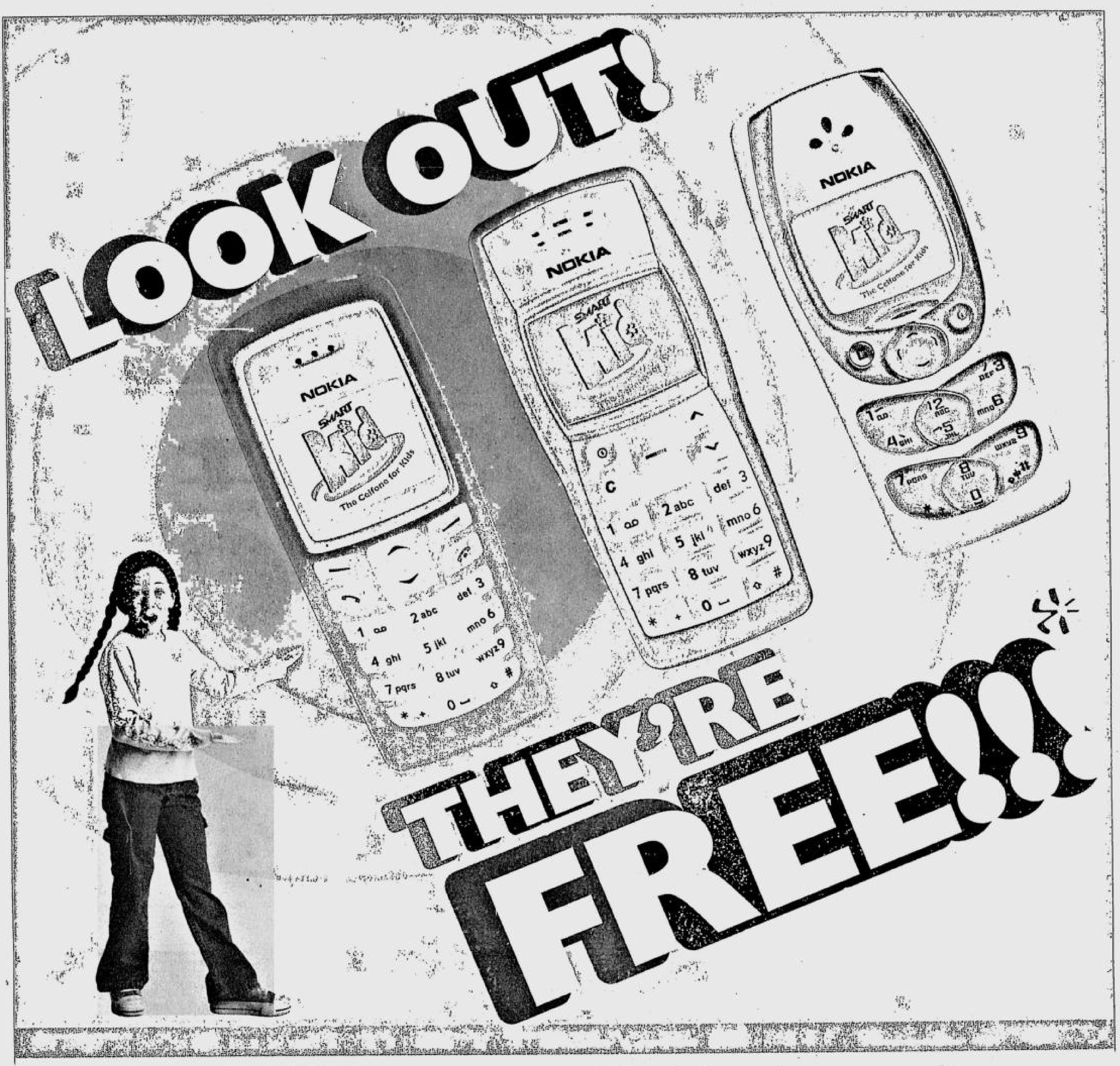

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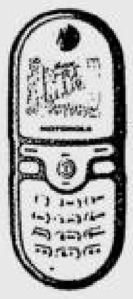
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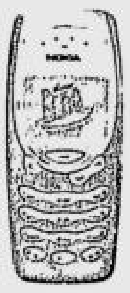
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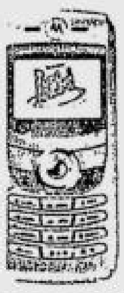
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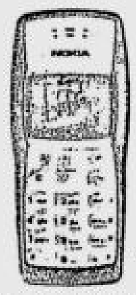
NOKIA 1100
FREE
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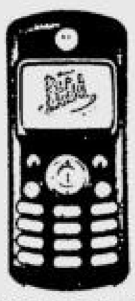
MOTOROLA C350i
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ALCATEL OT332
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@ Plan 600

NOKIA 2300
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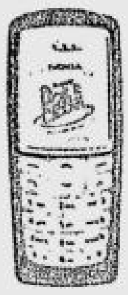
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SMART KID HANDSET PACKAGES

[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Motorola C200	FREE	P1,900
Nokia 3315	FREE	P2,500
Motorola C375 (MMS)	FREE	P3,400
Nokia 1100	FREE	P3,500
Motorola C350i	FREE	P3,600
Alcatel OT332	FREE	P4,000
Nokia 2300	FREE	P4,600
Nokia 2100	FREE	P4,900
Siemens C62(MMS)	P5,100	P5,400
Nokia 3100 (MMS)	P6,500	P6,800
Nokia 3200 (MMS with built-in camera)	P8,400	P8,700

SMART KID CONSUMABLE PLANS

[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Consumable Plan Value	P300	P600
Free Text Allocation	75	150
SMART to SMART (per minute)	P6.50	P6.50
SMART to non-SMART** (per minute)	P7.50	P7.50
Local Text in excess of the free text allocation	P1.00	P1.00

Plus FREE [illegible] SMART Kid [illegible]

SMART Kid
The Celfone for Kids

* FREE Phones are available under 24-month contract period, all under Plan 600, except for Nokia 3315 which is available under 18-month contract period only.

* FREE Phones must be enrolled under an Auto-Debit Agreement (ADA). In the absence of a credit card, subscriber must pay P1,400 plus the one (1) month advanced MSF to avail of the FREE Phone.

For SMART Kid simpack, one (1) month advanced Monthly Service Fee (MSF) is required. Pre-termination charges applies for phonekits and simpacks when contract is discontinued.

All phones under Plan 300 are available under 12-month contract period except for Motorola C200 (under 18-month contract period), and Motorola C375 (under 24-month contract period). Phones under Plan 600 not included under the FREE Phones promo are available under 12-month contract period.

** Applicable only to SMART calling other networks' landline, NDD. Rates are inclusive of VAT and Foreign Currency Adjustment (FCA). Consumable amount covers voice calls (local, NDD), text (local and international text), and VAS. Free text allocation applies to local text messages (SMART to SMART and SMART to other local networks).

To avail of SMART Kid, parents/guardians must be on postpaid subscription (SMART Gold / SMART Infinity / Addict Mobile). SMART Kid simpacks are also available separately. See flyers for application requirement details, or call our SMART Sales Hotline at 848 8882. Promo runs from September 4 to 30, 2004 only.

SMART
Simply Amazing!

For questions, comments or concerns, you may call the SMART Hotline at 888 1111; send a text message to 888 (standard rate in excess of the FREE TEXT allocation applies), email us at smartkid@smart.com.ph. Visit our website at www.smart.com.ph, or visit the SMART Wireless Center nearest you. See flyers for more details.

Promo runs from September 4 to 30 2004 Per DTI-NCR Permit No 4494 Series of 2004

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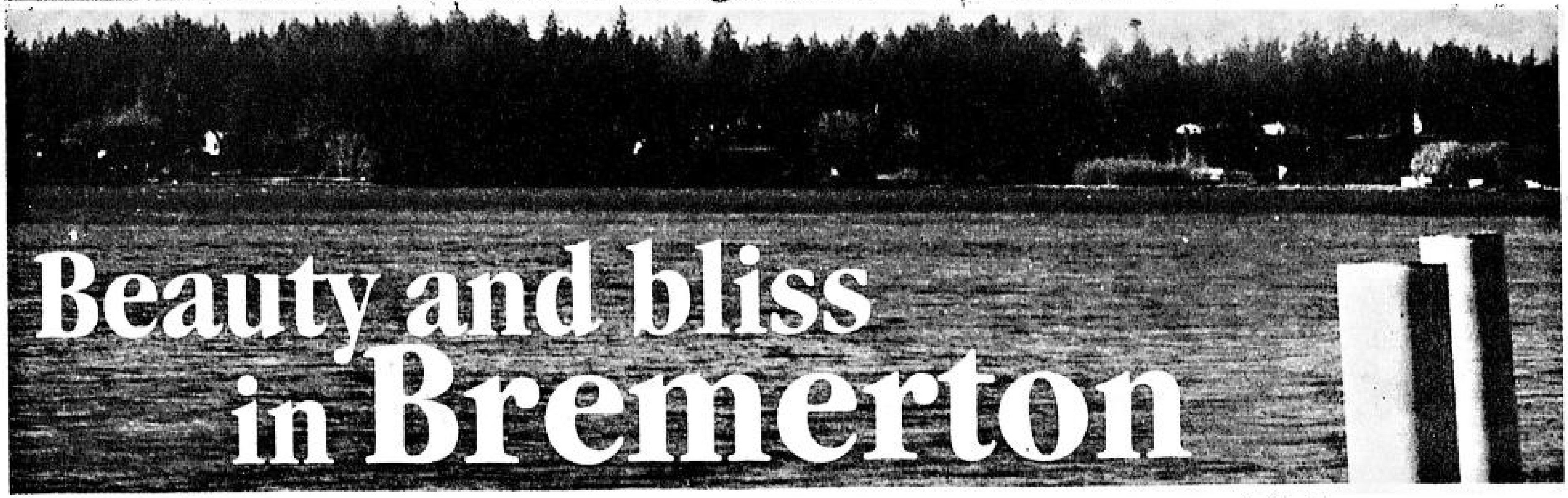

Beauty and bliss in Bremerton

PORT Washington Narrows in mid-winter with snow-capped Olympic Mountains in the background

Text and photos by Suzanne Goloy-Lanot
Contributors

THE WINTER drizzle sang a soothing lullaby as I sat out the afternoon with a hot cup of tea. I love the rain, and yet, thoughts of the great outdoors danced in my head.

Acknowledged as one of the most livable cities in America, Bremerton is located at the center of Kitsap County in the evergreen state of Washington. It is home to the US Naval Shipyard. Directly across the Puget Sound is its more famous neighbor, Seattle.

Bremerton is divided into east and west by the waters of Port Washington Narrows and connected by Mannette Bridge and Warren Avenue Bridge. The latter is my choice route from home on the eastside. When driving across this bridge, I always look forward to getting a glimpse of the majestic Mount Rainier and the scenic Olympic Mountains.

About a mile from Warren Avenue Bridge is one of my favorite spots, Lions Field Park. Although it is only a 10-minute drive from home via the main city street, I prefer driving down the long winding country back roads shaded by an assortment of tall pyramidal evergreens and robust deciduous trees opening into the refreshing waters of the sound.

The park has an area of 15 acres with 1,950 linear feet of shoreline. It has four ball fields, a children's playground, a walking path, two boat launches, a large waterfront dock, picnic tables, park benches, restrooms and parking areas.

Between mid-spring and fall I take the walking path to get the exercise I need while interacting with other residents, most of them total strangers, exchanging smiles, greetings, and bits of cliché.

After a half-hour walk, I wind down by watching other residents take pleasure in their activities—children romping and shrieking in the playground, joggers huffing along, dog owners walking their pets, cheering teams enjoying their game, book lovers curled up under shady trees, the elderly feeding the birds, sport-fishermen waiting for a bite or two, jet skiers and boat owners speeding by.

Moments later as their images recede into the background, I reminisce the visit of the Orca whales and the thrill they gave as I watched them frolic in the sparkling waters. The glorious sunset brings me back to the present, mesmerizing me with the glow it casts on the mountains, the trees and the water. I am rapt in the scene, letting tranquility seep into my being.

I am fortunate to live in a place surrounded by water. I enjoy taking ferry trips to Seattle on occasion when my adventurous spirit will not settle for a leisurely stroll on the shore. The freedom I experience while sailing, with the wind blowing my hair into a mass of tangles, is extremely exhilarating. As soon as the vessel docks in Seattle, I can hardly wait to take the next ferry ride back.

Firs, spruces and pines dominate the landscape of Bremerton and their lush foliage beautifies the region and purifies the air as well. Many species of birds take refuge in these trees. Hummingbirds, red robins, blue jays, cardinals and even pheasants are just a few that I enjoy watching from my kitchen window.

These winged creatures can be quite entertaining as they do their dance of swooping dives, fanning tails and lowering of their wings to display their attractive plumes as they burst into song. Their repertoires, ranging from simple calls to rich and complex melodies, can lull me to sleep when I spend lazy summer afternoons in my backyard gazebo.

The colors of Bremerton are fascinating as they change with the seasons. An outburst of spring blooming rhododendrons, azaleas, daffodils, tulips, cherry blossoms and other flowering trees make a striking garden palette. Summer offers a kaleidoscope of roses, dahlias, lilies and a myriad sun-loving annuals and brilliant wildflowers.

This diverse flora of delightful hues and delicious fragrances gives me an opportunity to appreciate cut flowers in beautiful arrangements around the house, which add a touch of luxury to my everyday life. A large array of fruits and vegetables are also in abundance.

Neighbors and friends have a flair for growing their own crops and generously share their bountiful harvest with me. I am proud to reciprocate with plump, crisp and scrumptious cherries, produce from my own backyard!

The autumn landscape is painted in a blaze of scarlet, gold, purple and bronze against a

BEAUTY/D2

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1. Promo is limited to new subscriptions and in areas where PLDT service is available. PLDT will confirm availability of lines to applicants. Promo period is from Sept 19-Dec 31, 2004 only.
2. If granted, one month free is on the 6th month. Subscriptions on this promotion have an 18-month lock-in period. A P1,900 pre-termination fee applies.
3. Subscriber's premises must have conduit wiring installed.
4. PLDT line cannot be installed if it passes through another property.
5. Subscriber or representative should be present during installation.
6. Other conditions apply. Call 171 or visit the nearest PLDT Business Office for inquiries.
7. See leaflets and posters for details.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4430, Series of 2004

PLDT

CHERRY blossoms create a cozy canopy for book lovers by the entrance to the Kitsap Regional Library in East Bremerton.

Beauty and bliss in Bremerton

One of the most livable cities in the US mesmerizes with the glow it casts on the mountains, the trees and the water

From page D1

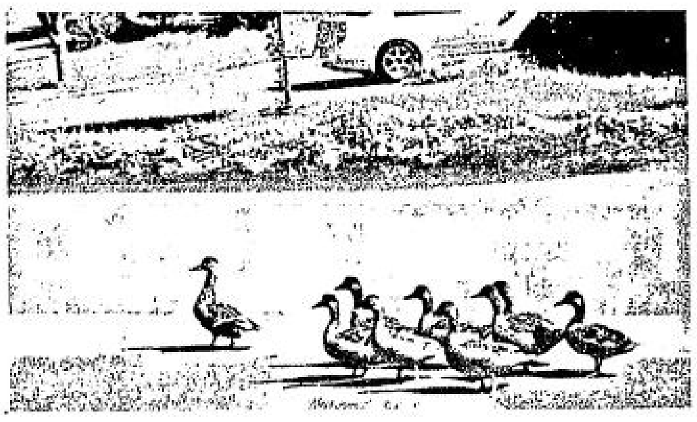
background of green. This spectacular show of color occurs when deciduous trees, shrubs and grasses prepare for their dormant winter period.

Winter may be the end of this vivid display but it is also the beginning of a stunning show. Although Bremerton winters are mild and rain can be a daily occurrence, it is not unusual to wake up to icy rooftops shimmering in the sunlight and a blanket of glistening frost on the ground.

A dusting of snow from time to time is quite a treat but an occasional snowfall is something I look forward to. These pristine clusters of crystal that fall to the ground and illuminate even the bleakest winter nights immensely enchant the child in me. The snow-capped mountains and trees laden with freshly fallen snow are a picture of breathtaking beauty, which creates a magical, serene ambience.

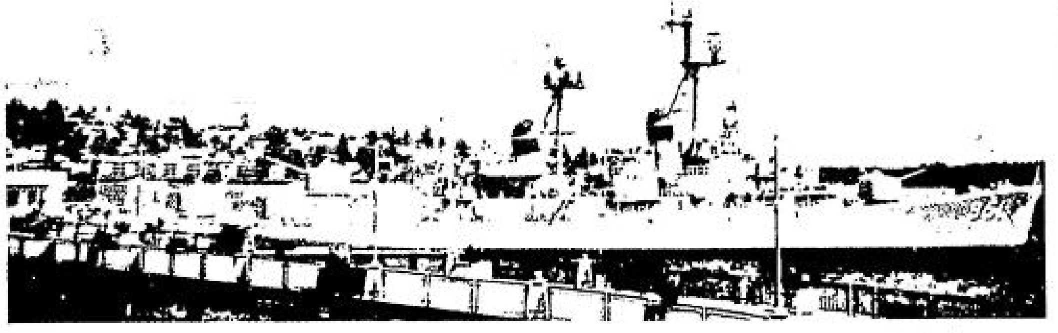
It's a blessing to be living in Bremerton. Clean environment, beautiful parks, varied recreation, quality education, cultural programs, convenient shopping, excellent medical facilities, low crime rate—I couldn't ask for more. A smooth blend of nature and infrastructure, city and country, the traditional and the contemporary, it's just my cup of tea!

The author left the Philippines in 1981 to join her husband Leo on his military tour of duty. In 1992, after Leo retired from the naval service, the couple and their two children, Adrienne and Jean-Lenard, settled in Bremerton

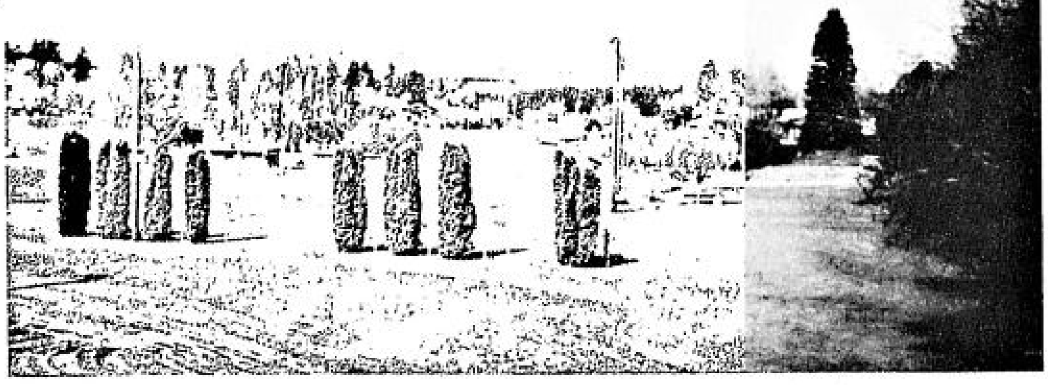


DUCK family out for a morning walk strays into human territory. Moments later one is run over by a speeding car. The police came to investigate.

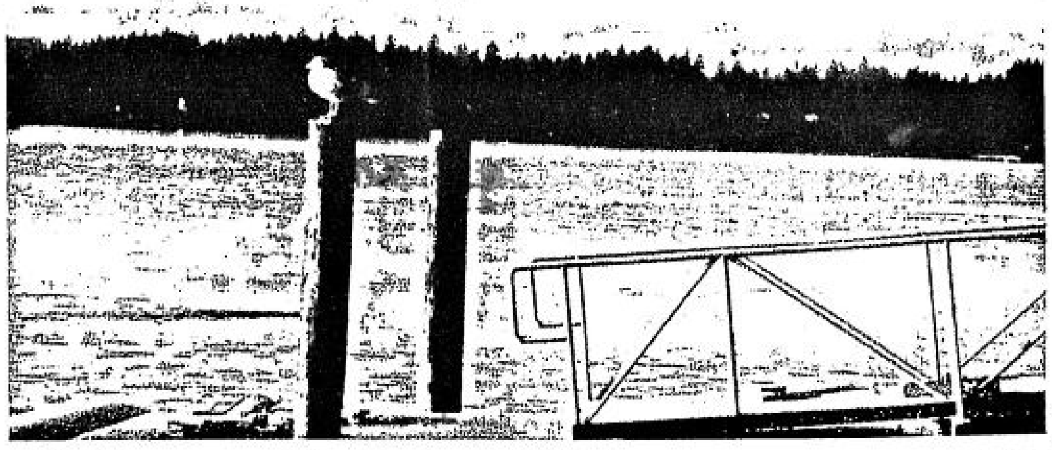
JEAN-LENARD LANOT



NOW a tourist attraction is the USS Turner Joy, which provided air-sea rescue duty near the Marianas Islands for President Dwight D. Eisenhower's visits to Asia.



LIONS Field Park, named for the local Lions Club, is bathed in the sunlight of early spring.



A SEAGULL rests on a post of a boat launch at Lions Field Park.

JEAN-LENARD LANOT

TRAVELBRIEFS

Surfing classic

THE 10TH Siargao Surfing Classic will be held Sept. 24-30, in General Luna, Siargao island, Surigao del Norte. This year's surfing event begins with the 6th National Surfing Cup. Winners will be announced on Sept. 27, and the international competition begins the following day.

Registration fees are P150 for the national category and P1,000 for the international category. E-mail olinalon@yahoo.com or olinalon@siargaosurfingcup.com. San Miguel Corp. is sponsoring related events like the Battle of the Bands on Sept. 26 and Bikini Open on Sept. 28. Being launched this year is the hand-paddling race from General Luna wharf to Guyam islet and back. Visit www.siargaosurfingcup.com, text or call 0926-7074312.

Free travel for one millionth passenger

DOMESTIC airline South East Asian Airlines is offering its one millionth passenger a travel pass for free, unlimited travel to any Seair destination for one whole year. The company expects to reach its one-million mark in ticket sales this September. Call Seair's sales and marketing department at 8437308.

Airlines group expands

NEW YORK—Global travelers will have additional route and fare choices with the full membership of Northwest Airlines, KLM Royal Dutch Airlines and Continental Airlines in SkyTeam. The SkyTeam governing board also announced that passengers could now earn and redeem frequent flyer miles interchangeably on any of its nine member airlines. With its three new members, the airlines alliance now serves 341 million passengers with 14,320 daily departures to 658 global destinations in more than 130 countries.

Nights for tourism people

THE MANILA Pavilion Hotel presents "Industry Nights," a treat for members of the tourism industry, every Friday of September. With "Industry Nights," travel agents, airline crew and hotel people can get a 50-percent discount on all standard drinks as they listen to the Fast Track and Muzic Matrix bands. Call Manila 5261212 local 2317. Valid ID is required.

Conference packages

Richmonde Hotel offers affordable meeting room packages for business functions. For a minimum booking of 10 rooms, packages for live-in seminars, training sessions or conferences are priced at P3,450/net and P2,000/net per person for single occupancy and twin sharing, respectively. Rates are inclusive of overnight stay in a superior room with buffet breakfast, two snacks and set lunch. Guests have the option to avail of the lunch buffet at the Grill for an additional P150 per person. For "live-out" day meetings, package rates start at P670/net per person, for a minimum of 20 participants, inclusive of two snacks and a set lunch. For a minimum of 30 participants, a buffet lunch may be served together with two snacks, starting at P790/net per person. Call Room Sales at 6387777 local 3909 or 6388878, or Banquet Sales at 638-8431.

Negros trade fair opens Sept. 30

THE 17TH ANNUAL Negros Trade Fair (NTF) will be held Sept. 30-Oct. 3 at the Expo Exchange, Greenbelt 1, Ayala Center, Makati. Theme of this year's show is Hecho Derecho.

Organized by the Association of Negros Producers (ANP), the fair will feature Negros delicacies like *piaya, barquillos, pastillas, señoritos, pastelitos* and *panuelitos*; mats, bags, house décor, fashion accessories and ceramic products; houseware made of abaca, weeds and grasses; baskets, candleholders, flower and wall décor using coco and corn husk; children's clothes; ceramic, hand-stitched and laminated novelty items, among others, from ANP's 80-plus members.

Highlight of the four-day event is the annual Bulawan Awards for product design to be handed out at the opening ceremonies on Sept. 30.

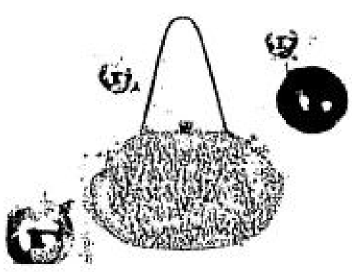
Governor Joseph Marañon is sending the Masskara Festival dance troupe to drum up interest in Bacolod as a travel destination. The annual trade fair started as an effort by 15 Manila-based women from Negros Occidental to help their people during the crisis caused by the drastic fall in sugar prices in the 1980s. The women, with the help of then Governor Bitay Lacson, set up the House of Negros Foundation that started the annual trade fair. Eventually, the non-stock, non-profit and non-political ANP handled the fair.

The trade fair will be open 10 a.m.-8 p.m. daily.

THE HANDUMANAN Workshop, one of the exhibitors in the Negros Trade Fair that opens Sept. 30, won first place in the 1992 Bulawan Award. It was also a recipient of the Katha Award of the Center for International Trade Expositions and Markets (CITEM). Its products include the wood candle holder, torch flowers made of wood shavings and an arrangement of artificial flowers in a basket.

Christmas bazaar opens Nov. 30

THE INTERNATIONAL Christmas Bazaar 2004 will be held Nov. 30 to Dec. 5 at the Philippine International Convention Center at the Cultural Center of the Philippines Complex.



The bazaar will feature some 200 exhibitors who will sell clothes, houseware, home furnishing, jewelry, personal accessories, food products, toys and other gift items from different countries including Thailand, China, Korea, Japan, United States, Vietnam, Malaysia and the Philippines.

Organized by Neotrade Enterprises, the bazaar expects some 20,000 shoppers. A highlight of the show is the Christmas Art Festival, which will feature art pieces as Christmas presents. Other art pieces will be priced at less than P20,000.

The bazaar will also feature Arts and Crafts Workshops for kids, stage activities and raffles.

Exhibitors who have already confirmed are Balena Multicraft Inc.; V.Y. Domingo Jewelry, Insignia, Lucy's Closet, Pointer, Fashion Square, Century Gift Shop, Santa's Favorite Ice Cream and Cakes, Everything 100, Boardwalk, My Angel Cubbyhole, Hands of the Shepherd, Life 101, New Life Shopping, Baby Cat Boutique, SII International Inc., Fashion Minded Corp. and PPF enterprises, among others.

Sponsors of the event are Crayola and Lil' Hands, Smart Communications, Little Tikes, Binondo Media Publishing, Puriflex Mineral Water Systems, The Foreign Post, Me Magazine, Good Housekeeping, Jam 88.3, Wave 89.1, 99.5 RT, 103.5 K-Lite and 93.9 iFM.

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Best of the South in Mindanao expo

GLOBE Handyphone is the major sponsor of the Department of Tourism's WOW Mindanao Exposition 2004 at SM City Davao and other venues Oct. 1-17.

With the theme "Weaving through Nature and Culture," the expo aims to showcase the region's premier destinations, arts and crafts, cuisine and ethnic celebrations.

A gigantic diorama-cum-tapestry of the various weaves of more than 18 ethnolinguistic groups, dubbed "Habi ng Mindanao—Diorama for Peace," will symbolize the region's call for harmony in diversity.

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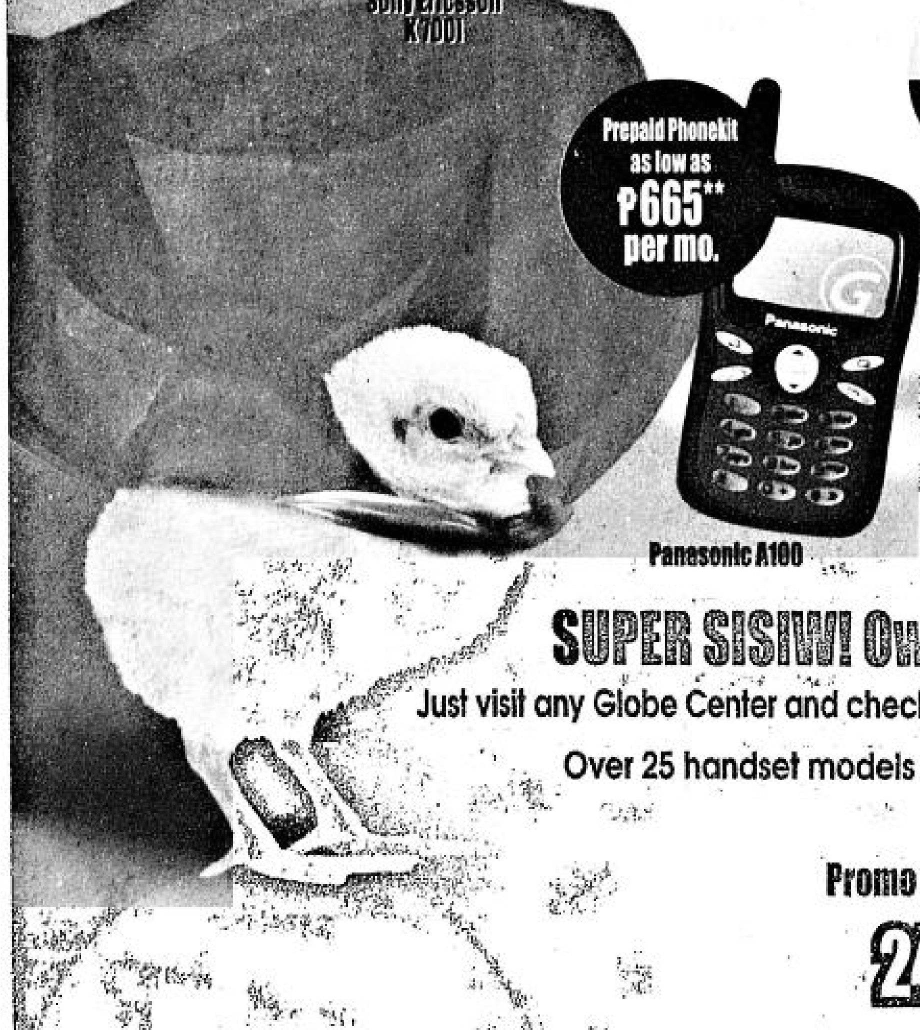

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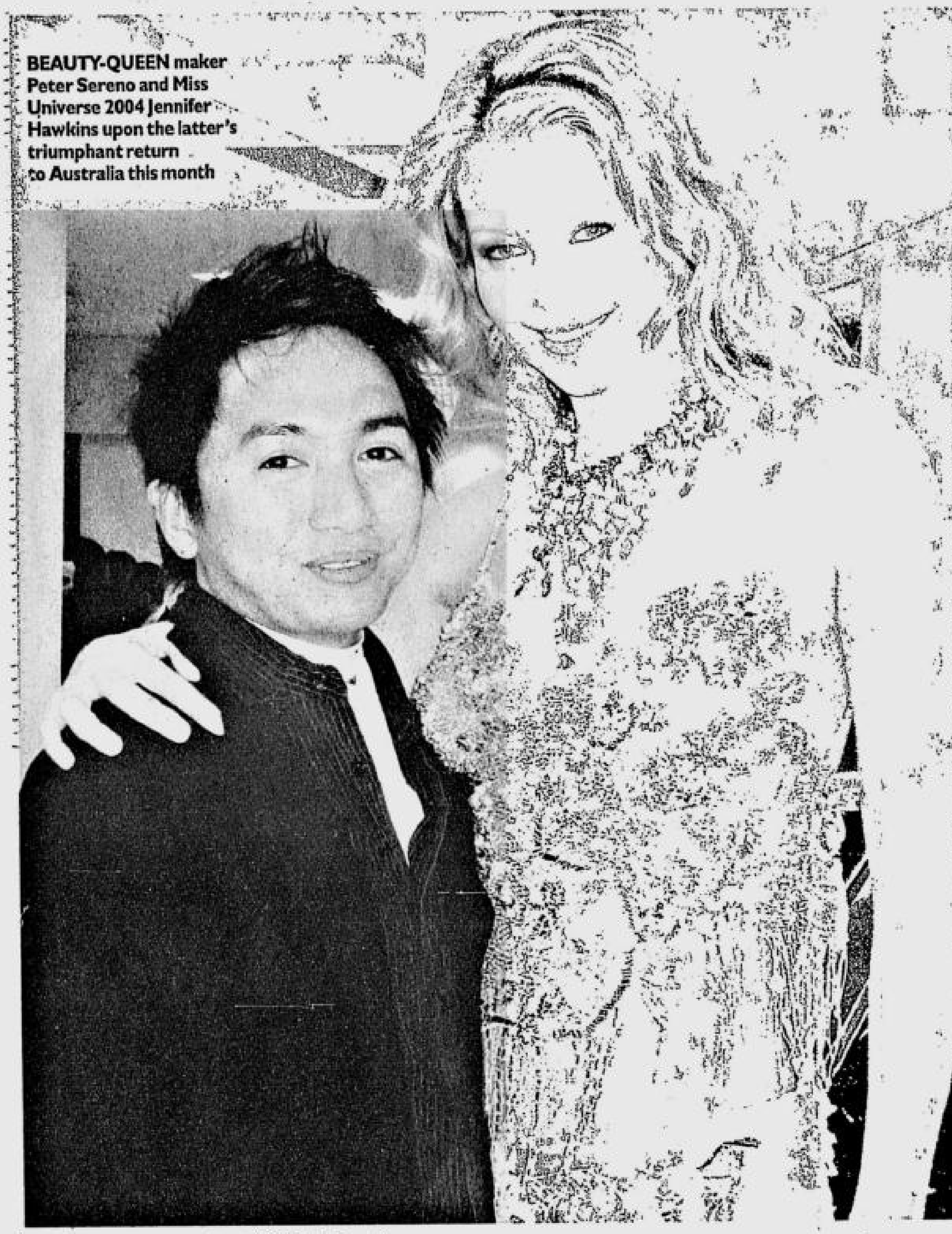

BEAUTY-QUEEN maker Peter Sereno and Miss Universe 2004 Jennifer Hawkins upon the latter's triumphant return to Australia this month

Miss Universe's mentor is a Pinoy

Miss Australia Jennifer Hawkins has Fil-Aussie Peter Sereno partly to thank for ending her country's 22-year title drought

By Alex Y. Vergara

SO the Philippines has yet to produce another Miss Universe since Margie Moran won the title in 1973. But beauty contest buffs should take heart, as Australia was also in the same boat until Jennifer Hawkins brought honor to the country this June.

Prior to her victory, the last Australian to wear the Miss Universe crown was Kerrie-Anne Wells in 1972. Australians have partly to thank Filipino-Australian Peter Sereno for ending the 22-year title drought.

After Hawkins won the local pageant, Australian contest organizers went to Sereno for help. As a stylist and former talent manager, he has had plenty of training in honing wannabes into becoming recognizable fashion and media celebrities Down Under. Having worked as a PR practitioner, he's also media-savvy enough to know what works and what doesn't for his protégés.

Passion for beauty tilts

But perhaps Sereno's best qualification is his passion for beauty contests, especially the Miss Universe tilt, which he watches and analyzes without fail. Before working with Hawkins, he also helped train her predecessor, Ashlea Talbot.

"We're a weird bunch," says Sereno via e-mail. "But I'm a living testament that being an [beauty] 'expert' in this field can pay off."

A native of Davao City, Sereno, 26, was barely 11 when he migrated with his family to Australia in 1989. Inspired by gowns he saw in countless beauty pageants while growing up, he later trained as a designer. It's in styling, however, that he has found his true calling.

"Fashion design isn't something I want to pursue at this stage in my life," says Sereno, who's now based in Sydney and works for Escada. "[But] the skills I have learned I am able to apply in the area of styling and determining what, how and when to wear [a particular look] during competitions."

In fact, Sereno was already into styling without him knowing it and even before such a profession had acquired a name. Friends at school would come to him to seek advice about their prom outfits. Debutantes would also run to him for fashion and styling tips for their big night. It didn't take long for word to get around of his ability and willingness to do free makeovers.

"Before I knew it," he says, "I was already conducting a backyard operation in runway training! I'm a true believer that knowing how to carry yourself can make a big difference in the way people look and interact with you."

Fresh and natural

Which pretty much applies to Hawkins, a former cheerleader and dancer, who, less than a few weeks before flying to Quito, Ecuador (the contest venue), knew next to nothing about the intricacies surrounding the world's most prestigious beauty pageant.

Not even the organizers, says Sereno, believed in Hawkins initially. While "delegates" from such countries as India, Colombia and Venezuela trained for at least a year prior to the contest, Hawkins was all set to fly to Quito on her own. That was until someone thought of hooking her up with the Fil-Aussie Pygmalion.

"When I first saw her," he recalls, "I thought she had a chance to land in the semifinals on her appearance alone. After all, she's beautiful. But for her to win the contest was beyond anyone's wildest dreams."

Hawkins may be a tyro compared to some of her rivals, but Sereno believed her dancing background would help her stand out in the runway. Instead of making her rehearse motherhood statements of the "world peace" and "Mother Teresa is my idol" variety, he turned such inexperience in handling interviews to her advantage.

Such a strategy of playing up his ward's "fresh and natural" side included freeing her of techniques that would only hinder her from presenting her true self. The game plan extended to her "amateurish" catwalk technique and "unrehearsed" answers.

"While other delegates spoke like they were already running the UN trail," says Sereno, "we made sure Jennifer sounded fresh. It's amazing how much work it takes to sound unrehearsed! In the end, our strategy of making her stand out worked."

Indeed, it did. They were happy enough to see Hawkins end up in the magic 12, but she exceeded everybody's expectations, perhaps including hers, by landing on top. In fact, her "spontaneous" demeanor started way too early, if unwittingly, in the contest.

On the eve of Hawkins' departure for Quito, Sereno and the beauty queen's designer were still recording "test" questions and answers for her to listen to during her flight (so much for in-flight entertainment!). The three spent the earlier part of the day doing last-minute coaching and styling, and planned to assemble her key wardrobe the next day since her flight wasn't until 9 p.m.—or so they thought.

Imagine their surprise when a fran-

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Kailan Kaya	klankaya2	klankaya6
Machonurin	machonurin2	machonurin6
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Pamela	pamela2	pamela6
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CLASSIC beauties. Ching Montinola, Nini Licaros and Marylou Prieto

TATLER'S Irene Francisco, Philtown's top lady Marissa Concepcion and lovable Maurice Arcache

Finally, a list that celebrates my spunk!

TESSA!

Tessa Prieto-Valdes

TIMELESS beauty and exquisite style have graced Manila's center stage for two consecutive weeks. Both qualities are innate to certain people and cannot be bought (even though beauty doctor to the stars **Vicki Belo** may disagree). So if someone possesses both, you can be sure she would be in the top-10 lists of the country's leading glossy publications.

Though beauty is in the eye of the beholder, style is the essence of character. These inestimable traits set an individual a league apart, a head above the crowd, way beyond the usual.

Manila's foremost glam society magazine, Philippine Tatler, recently presented its "Style and Substance Woman" in a most fashionable cocktail party at the Edge, the newest hip venue in The Fort. The joint function, hosted by the magazine and classy real estate developer Philtown, opened with the superb Broadway-style performance of dashing tenor **Jose Llana**. Although people were quite rude and chatted continuously, Jose sang passionately.

Jose has always been the consummate gentleman. I met him when Philippine Tatler editor **Anton San Diego** brought him to my wedding anniversary last year, and I recall that he graciously did an impromptu a cappella rendition of one of my favorite songs, "Someone to Watch Over Me," as our small party dined at Red. I was so smitten that I nearly left my faithful husband, **Dennis**, on our anniversary party.

Included among Tatler's 10 astonishing ladies were grand dame **Mary Prieto** and ever-stylish **Bea Valdes**. If both beauty and style are in the blood, does it follow that I should be on that list since I am both a Prieto and a Valdes? After all, I am related to both, on separate sides of the family. But my fighting spirit is strong, so I am looking forward to next year's List!

I was just happy to receive a beautiful Bulgari bag as my present from the Tatler family, who has elevated me to No. 9 in their Most-Invited List (a huge jump from last year). With day-to-day life being so complicated and stressful, it's fantastic to be amused with trivial issues like making the List. Tatler has gained quiet notoriety by drawing up lists like these. On its own, it has created a niche among its influential readers.

Fashionably chic

In the local fashion world, Mega magazine has also carved its own niche as the bible of the fashionably chic. Its constantly vogue editor, **Liza Ilarde Cuenca**, included me in Mega's 10 Most Stylish Women. Finally, someone who appreciates my individual flair and spunk! Thank heavens I finally made a list, as I was close to resorting to bribery if I had not been chosen. I was even more honored to be in the same list as my other favorite Imelda, **Ms Imelda Cojuangco**. I believe I am continuing her flair for flamboyant dressing and big hairstyles.

The 10 chosen ladies were brought to the main affair at that delicious Greek restaurant, Mati, at the Power Plant in Rockwell, on chauffeur-driven BMWs from Prestige Cars along Pasong Tamo extension. At the showroom, we were loaned stunning pearl and gold creations by Jewelmer.

My ears were getting an allergy from wearing real jewelry, but unfortunately for Dennis, I got accustomed to one or two pieces that night quickly enough, so much so that I almost brought them home. Thank God I remembered the kids' tuition payments!

At the function, I met Dr. **Joerg Breuer**, the new president of BMW, who I thought was a stern and serious German executive, until he playfully donned my vintage New Yorker bright orange feather bolero. Now that is as down-to-earth as they come!

For the record, I also got CEO of Unilever **Howard Belton** to wear a blue wig, so why not a feathered jacket? Dr. Breuer told me he had met my husband at the Tatler-Edge function and had asked him how we manage to kiss with my inch-long, false eyelashes. He has indeed settled quite nicely into the local social whirl.

It was unfortunate that one of Mega's 10, **Doyee Tumpalan**, First Quadrant beauty and brains, was sick and so was unable to attend the party. As she is known for her fondness for jewelry, I wore my egg-size, champagne-diamond (obviously faux) encrusted ring to compete with her dazzling pieces. I had met her briefly at our pictorial shoot at The Diamond Hotel (so appropriately named) and she was so pleasant and kind. I will have my son **Tyrone** marry her daughter so at least there will be some real jewelry to be passed around in the family.

Glam show-biz nights

In between all these glamour affairs, I also attended several in the show-biz scene. The first was "Feng Shui," the movie premiere of my ever-so-hardworking show-biz counterpart, **Kris Aquino**. Compared to her other movie with **Robin Padilla**, this Dolby-surround-sound horror film was done very well. The product endorsements were even somewhat subtle, and the acting of Kris was as excellent and real as could be. She didn't even look pretty in that scene where a gun was being slammed in her face. Which is remarkable, as I would have thought the usual Pinoy *direk* would have made sure her blush on was intact all throughout.

My second show-biz event was the Awit Awards Night at the NBC Tent. I presented the award for Best Performance by a Duet and by a Recording Band. As a really odd and strange co-host, I was paired with erstwhile presidential also-ran **Eddie Gil**. I discovered he has a song titled "Pelukang Itim." Well, I plan to lend him one of my wigs because he is so in dire need of a makeover!

I turned a year older this month, celebrating the non-event by hosting several small affairs in contrast to last year's Big 4-0 Amazing Race/Fear Factor Party. I endlessly count my many blessings, including the wonderful recovery of my cousin-in-law **Jake Uichico**, who had a stroke at last year's race. Blessings like Jake's recovery should be treasured, as they are so unpredictable.

Just this month, two of my Assumption high school batchmates lost their fathers. My deepest condolences to **Rita Tordesillas**, daughter of Ed, and **Mailou San Gabriel**, daughter of Dr. Pepot. We may choose to see the tragedies in our lives as total misery, but we must keep everything in positive perspective, as all this is part of the unending cycle of life and love.

E-mail me at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph

> Mega magazine has included me in its most recent 10 Most Stylish Women list. Thank heavens, as I was close to resorting to bribery if I had not been chosen

PHILIPPINE Tatler's Style and Substance women at the Edge: Ting-Ting Cojuangco, Mary Prieto, Barbara Aboitiz, Wendy Hotung, Mariciris Vazquez Prada, Mons Tantoco, Mia Borromeo, Bea Valdes, Joyce Oreña and Sigalit Djemal

JOEY Cuisia with premiere designer Pitoy Moreno

DAVID and Marilu Batchelor with James and Lily Benoit

MEGA'S Top 10 with BMW's Jim Alvarez and Dr. Breuer and Super's Tim Yap

FUN lady Kit Zobel

SERIOUS and funny BMW president, Dr. Joerg Breuer

WITTY and spunky Celine Lopez

L'OREAL'S Celine Gabriel and Joey@92.3's Ria Romero

URBAN Spa's Irene Ibanez and Mega editor Liza Ilarde Cuenca

GORGEOUS sisters Alessandra and Assunta de Rossi

FASHION designer Frederick Peralta and NBC's Francis Lumen

FUNKY couple Tootie and Norman Crisologo

TALENTED and pretty Karylle with my Awit Awards co-host, Eddie Gil

TRENDSETTERS Joel Ong of Kleid, Jenni Epperson of Just Shop and GP Reyes

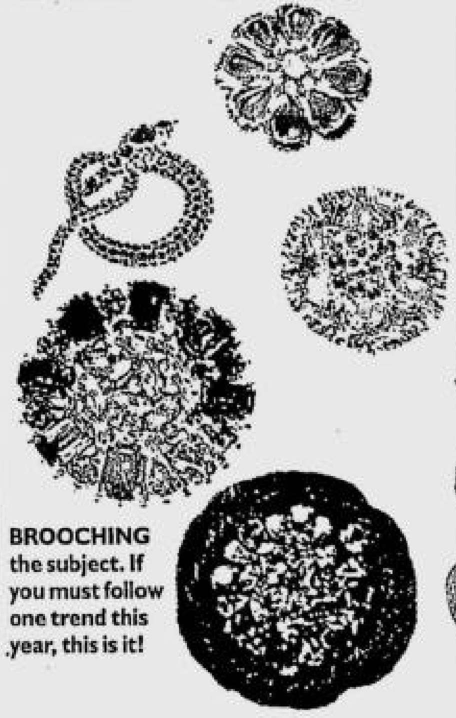
MIGUEL Rosales, Kara Tolentino and Tina Pamintuan

SWEET little chums. Kate Torralba with the Sea Princess

CEBU friends Glenna Guidicelli with cute car-racer son Matteo and triathlete Noy Jopson

BARBIE'S Cradle's Wendel and Barbie with me and Ogie Alcasid

WISH YOU WERE HERE! Oprah Winfrey gives a new car to each of the 276 members of her audience.


BROOCHING the subject. If you must follow one trend this year, this is it!

ROUND HERE. Store your pointed shoes. Round-toed is back!

Amazing fashion, baritone, race and Oprah

T'NT TRENDS & TRENDINGS

Anton San Diego

THE TOP 10 picks for F/W 2004—Part 1. If you are in need of refurbishing your wardrobe, check the Fall/Winter collections. Here are some key looks to have, wear and buy.

1. **Green is the new black.** It seems that the color for summer is here to stay. It showed up in most of the major collections of the top designers, this time paired with browns and darker hues.

2. **Round toe.** The season's look is all about the glamorous '50s, and the round pumps (in open or closed toe) were a staple feature during the time. Razor sharp or pointed are out!

3. **Brooches/Pins.** Brooches are *sooo* hot that if there is anything you need to follow on this list, it's this one. It's important, though, to have the right brooch.

You can accessorize your dresses and jackets. Faux jewelry is fine—but the older the better, you get more bragging rights. And don't just wear one—three to four at a time is perfect!

4. **Animal prints.** No better way to unleash your animal nature than with animal prints. Leopard prints seem to be the most in-demand, either as tops, shoes, bags, etc.

5. **Bows.** As we mentioned in a recent TNT article, bows are a major look, be it in tops, belts, shoes or accessories.

6. **The equestrian look.** It's considered one of the more elegant sports in the world, so why not have this look? Horsey style is separated into two countries, both with their pros—French style is riding jacket and jodhpurs, while the US is all about cowboy boots, plaid shirts and anything Ralph Lauren.

7. **'50s look.** The glamour years are back. Think "Stepford Wives," the **Nicole Kidman** version. It's all about celebrating femininity and drop-dead elegance.

8. **The last collection of Tom Ford for Gucci.** His last collection was touted as his best, so start stocking up on this collection as it will surely be an icon of sorts in the future.

9. **Feminine, billowy and flowing.** If you are having a gown made, then these are the key adjectives to remember. Or simply, just go to Inno Sotto.

10. **Aviators.** This is the only pair of sunglasses to have. Whether updated or classic, it is the only pair of sunglasses to be worn in the last part of the year. Remember, the bigger the better.

Joshua Payne
your love, my home
JOSHUA PAYNE CD. You will surely love his rich operatic baritone.

Must-have CD—Joshua Payne. Whenever I am in Hong Kong, one of my favorite pit stops is HMV. I found this particular CD in the opera/jazz section, alongside **Josh Groban** and **Michael Bublé**. Joshua Payne probably has one of the most soulful, sensitive and heartfelt voices in the business today. He is classically trained and is a songwriter as well.

He was actually born deaf but had an operation that restored most of his hearing. When I read about this, his songs took on a different meaning. From the 11 songs, three are cover tracks, "Let It Be Me," "If You Leave Me Now" and Bread's "If." The latter is the best rendition I have ever heard. His powerful baritone voice could make any cynic fall in love. This is a must-buy album, which is unfortunately not available yet in Manila. Calling record distributors, this one's a sure winner!

Strictly for alkies and the like. For those who love their bubbly, vodkas, scotch, etc., here's something for you. A new machine called AWOL (alcohol without liquid) mixes the spirit of your choice with pure oxygen, in which a cloudy alcohol vapor is released and inhaled. The alcohol goes straight into the bloodstream, and the result is instant *wengweng*.

It's billed as the "ultimate party toy," and for those on a diet, it has no calories and does not lead to a hangover in the morning. The machine costs around $2,995. For more information, go to their website, www.awolmachine.com. Warning: this column does not promote alcohol consumption, unless you are an alcoholic already.

"Amazing Race" in the Philippines. Caught the "Amazing Race" show last Wednesday and was more than entertained. The remaining four groups landed in the Philippines, went to a jeepney factory in Cavite; to a duck farm in Victoria, Laguna; then off to the Coconut Palace on Roxas Boulevard.

Did you catch some of the hilarious comments? One of the contestants was such in a hurry she was telling the driver to run over the pedestrians. A taxi driver, when asked to go to the Coconut Palace, asked, "Where, cookie palace?" Another proudly said, when urged to beat traffic, "We will break all the laws!"

It was nice to see First Daughter **Luli Arroyo** at the episode's pit stop. I immediately sent her an SMS to ask her to describe her experience on the show. Here are her impressions in full:

"Being part (albeit a small part) of the 'Amazing Race 5' in Manila was a lot of fun. It was filmed early this year and in the middle of the campaign period, so I took an afternoon off from campaigning to participate, because I felt that it was important to support a show that portrayed the Philippines as a country in a positive way.

"It was cloaked in a lot of secrecy, and understandably so, because this series only works if no one knows how it would end until the final episode is telecast. I was also asked to be on standby in case some teams got in way ahead of the others, but fortunately for me, they all arrived on the same flight into Manila. I didn't get to spend any time with the contestants because right after I taped my part, I had to leave to get back onto the campaign. I enjoyed talking to the film crew and to **Phil**, the show's host. I enjoyed talking to the Philippine crew the most. They were very professional and looked like they were having a lot of fun, and all the background work seemed very exciting (for me, at least), but the Pinoys were very calm.

"The first team to arrive (**Chip** and **Kim**) took me by surprise, because they were so exuberant and Kim needed a hug, so it was all very spontaneous. My impression was that they were a very generous couple and generally good-natured. The moms (**Linda** and **Karen**) were adorable, too. The two other couples (**Brandon** and **Nicole**, **Colin** and **Christie**) were really focused on the race. The last pair to come in were fuming mad and feeling betrayed. At first I didn't understand what the yield was and why they were giving all their money to Phil because these were new elements in the 'Race,' but I thought it was a good twist.

WHO'S the boss? Colin, one of the "Amazing Race" contestants, has his patience taxed by his new Pinoy friend.

"I met some of the local production people under **Jun Juban** and his wife. I think the Jubans are very dedicated people who work very hard to project our country in a better way in the international media, and this stint was a real triumph because of them."

The last episode will be next week, where the contestants will go to Palawan en route to their icy finale. "Amazing Race" is shown on Studio 23 and on AXN.

"Wish you were here" moment—Oprah Winfrey show. Ever received one of those postcards from some exotic place that reads, "Wish you were here"? Hate them!

They send it to you especially since you are not there. Anyway, this week's "I wish you were here" moment was on Oprah's first episode for her 19th season. She surprised 276 handpicked and deserving audience members with a new car. Making sure the audience were kept surprised, she first chose 11 from the audience and gave them a car, then proceeded to give the rest of the audience a box saying that the 12th person to win a car will have a key inside. And everyone had a key!

In the same show, a 20-year-old girl who had spent years in foster care and homeless shelters received a four-year college scholarship, a makeover and $10,000 in clothes. Likewise, a family with eight foster children who were about to be kicked out of their home were given $130,000 to buy and repair the home. Don't you just love Oprah's show?

E-mail the author at antonsd@philtatler.com

Miss Universe's mentor is a Pinoy

From page E1

tic Hawkins called them up past midnight to tell them she had looked into her ticket and found out that her flight was actually 9 a.m. Sereno and the designer raced to the latter's studio to put together her outfits, including the very important "stepping-off-the-aircraft-at-Quito number."

"We had this Joan Collins diva outfit prepared for her, which she was supposed to change into 30 minutes before touchdown," says Sereno. "Imagine our horror when she stepped out wearing a white sleeveless shirt, denim miniskirt, flat sandals and scarf around her head! We almost died!"

Like her two mentors, Hawkins was probably too exhausted from all that prep work. She failed to change and make a lasting first impression because she woke up late. Indeed, not a very good beginning, but one that eventually rectified itself as the contest wore on.

Global perspective

So what are Sereno's observations—and unsolicited advice—on what's hampering the Philippine effort? After all, the country, like Venezuela and India today, once had a reputation for sending virtual winners to various beauty tilts abroad.

"I guess it's important to look at it from a global perspective and beyond the traditional beauty-queen view," he says. "This includes checking out her [delegate's] international marketability. Aside from being able to work the charity rounds, she should also look great on the cover of Sports Illustrated."

It's no longer how much hungry mouths you can feed, he adds. The name of the game is also about how much money you can raise for various causes through commercial avenues. And, yes, that includes foundations that promote "world peace, unity and understanding."

MISS UNIVERSE
JENNIFER Hawkins makes an unrehearsed wave as the new Miss Universe.

PHOTO TAKEN FROM WWW.SANTABANTA.COM

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

Fine marquise jewelry

MICHELIS, makers of fine sterling silver jewelry and gift items, welcomes the 'Ber' months with a collection of beautifully-cut gemstones. Classically designed, these marquise-cut pieces can easily match either a formal or a casual outfit.

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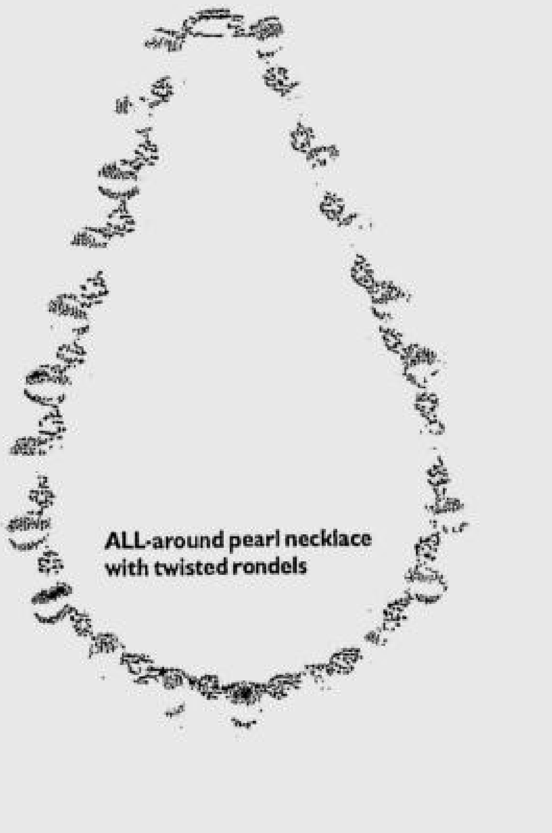
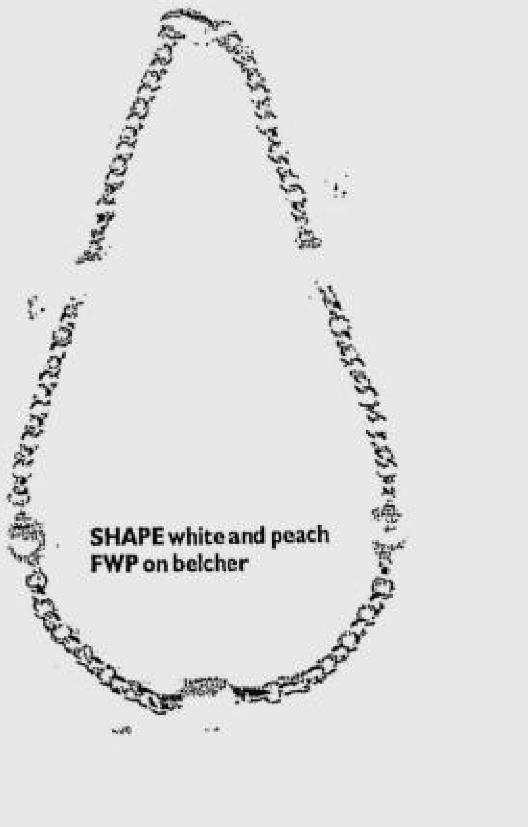

ALL-around pearl necklace with twisted rondels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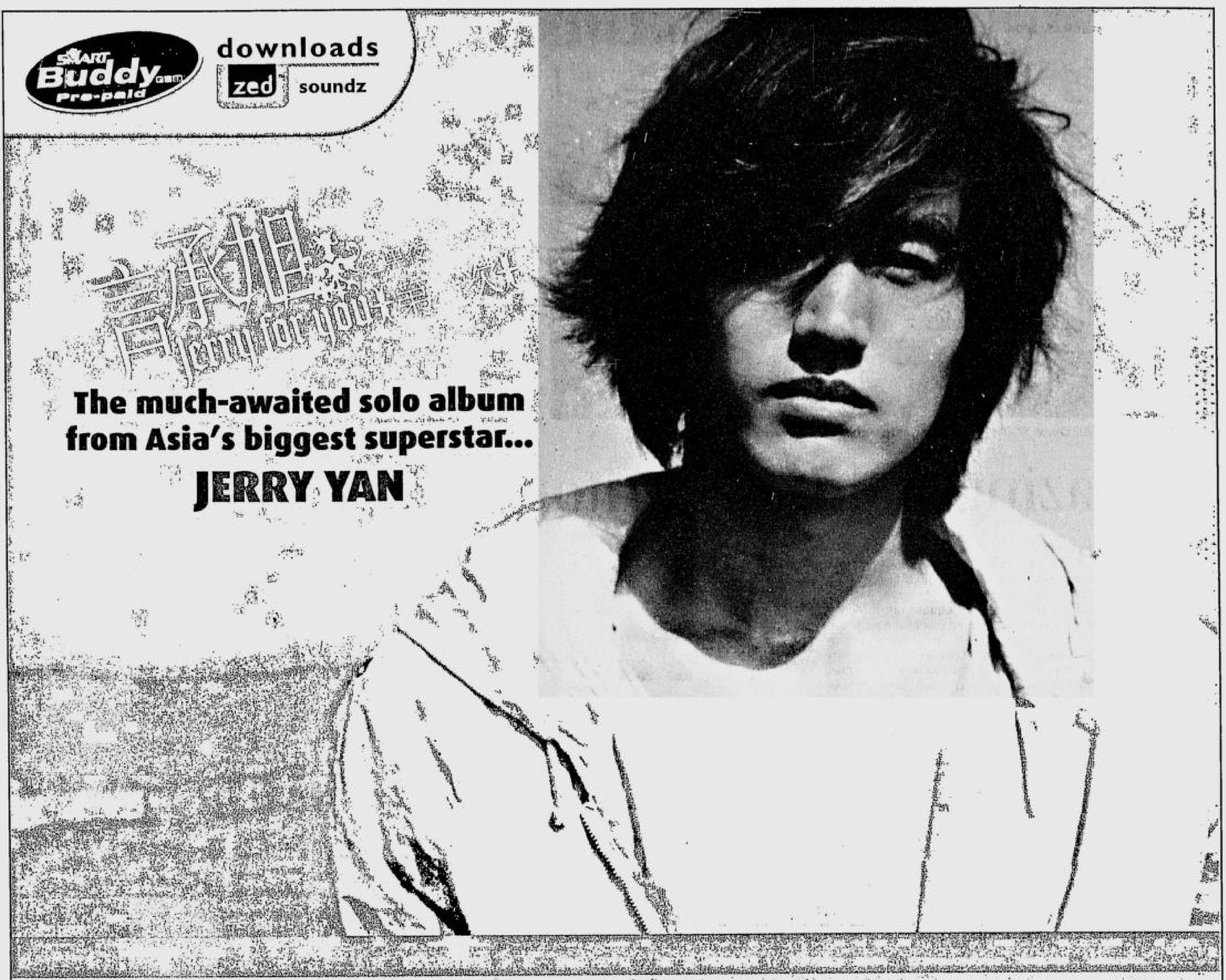

The much-awaited solo album from Asia's biggest superstar...

JERRY YAN

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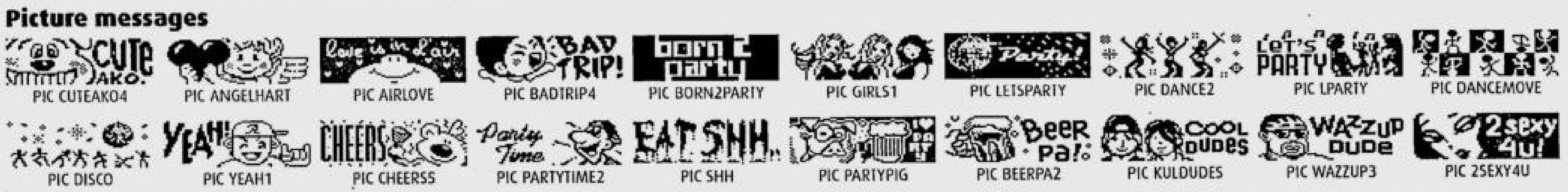
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PIC BADTRIP4
PIC BORN2PARTY
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PIC LETSPARTY
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PIC LPARTY
PIC DANCEMOVE
PIC DISCO
PIC YEAH1
PIC CHEERS5
PIC PARTYTIME2
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PIC KULDUDES
PIC WAZZUP3
PIC 2SEXY4U

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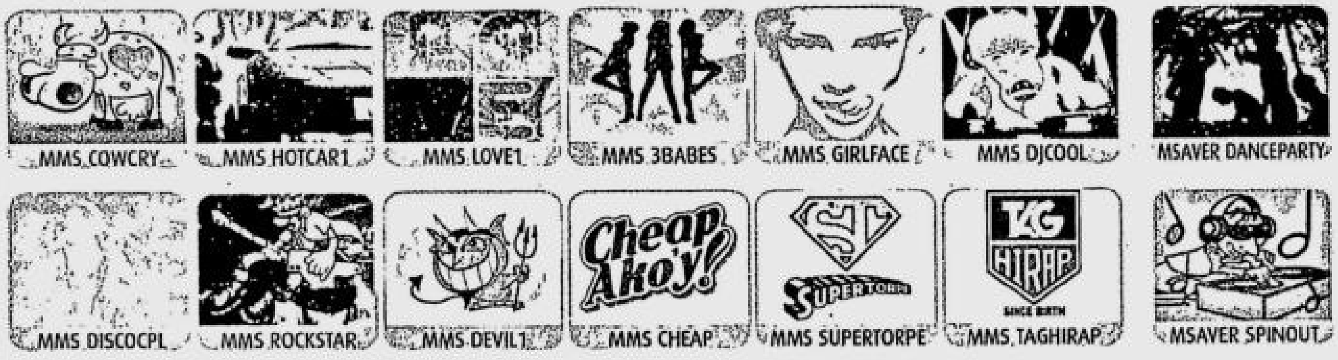
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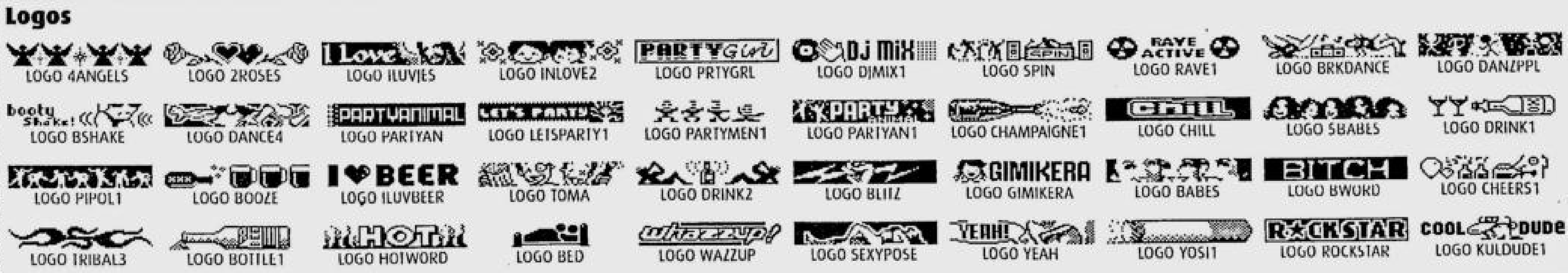
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P.O.W.

PICK OF THE WEEK

POW	KEYWORD
Wacky Logos	POWWACK
Logos	POWLOGO
Girl Logos	POWGAL
Guy Logos	POWGUY
Pic Message	POWPIC
Mono Ringtones	POWTONE
Poly Ringtones	POWPOLY
OPM Ringtones	POWOPM
Rock Ringtones	POWROCK
Wallpaper	POWMMS

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Song Title	Artist	Mono keyword
If God Is A DJ	*Pink*	**TONE DJGOD**
Together Again	*Janet Jackson*	**TONE 2GDERAGN**
Weapon of Choice	*Fatboy Slim*	**TONE WEAPON**
Beautiful	*Snoop Dogg feat. Pharrell*	**TONE BEAUTI**
Like I Love You	*Justin Timberlake*	**TONE LIKEI**
Bootylicious	*Destiny's Child*	**TONE BOOTYLI**
Toxic	*Britney Spears*	**TONE TOXIC**
Can't Get You Out Of My Head	*Kylie Minogue*	**TONE CANTGETU**
Don't Call Me Baby	*Madison Avenue*	**TONE CALLMEBABY**
Be With You	*Atomic Kitten*	**TONE BWYOU**
Let's Get It Started	*Black Eyed Peas*	**TONE LETSGET**
Milkshake	*Kelis*	**TONE MILKSHAKE**
I'll Never Leave You	*Lumidee*	**TONE NEVERLEAVE**
Get Busy	*Sean Paul*	**TONE GETBUSY**
Outrageous	*Britney Spears*	**TONE OUTRAGEOUS**
Come Into My World	*Kylie Minogue*	**TONE COMEINTO**
Rock Your Body	*Justin Timberlake*	**TONE ROCKYOUR**
No Letting Go	*Wayne Wonder*	**TONE NOLET**
Play	*Jennifer Lopez*	**TONE PLAY**
Sexy	*Black Eyed Peas*	**TONE SEXY**

Song Title	Artist	Poly Keyword
If God Is A DJ	*Pink*	**POLY DJGOD**
Together Again	*Janet Jackson*	**POLY 2GDERAGN**
Beautiful	*Snoop Dogg feat. Pharrell*	**POLY BEAUTI**
Like I Love You	*Justin Timberlake*	**POLY LIKEI**
Bootylicious	*Destiny's Child*	**POLY BOOTYLI**
Toxic	*Britney Spears*	**POLY TOXIC**
Can't Get You Out Of My Head	*Kylie Minogue*	**POLY CANTGET**
Be With You	*Atomic Kitten*	**POLY BWYOU**
Let's Get It Started	*Black Eyed Peas*	**POLY LETSGET**
Milkshake	*Kelis*	**POLY MILKSHAKE**
Get Busy	*Sean Paul*	**POLY GETBUSY**
Gossip Folks	*Missy Elliott*	**POLY GOSSIP**
Outrageous	*Britney Spears*	**POLY OUTRAGEOUS**
Come Into My World	*Kylie Minogue*	**POLY COMEINTO**
Rock Your Body	*Justin Timberlake*	**POLY ROCKYOUR**
Play	*Jennifer Lopez*	**POLY PLAY**
Sexy	*Black Eyed Peas*	**POLY SEXY**
Ladies Night	*Atomic Kitten*	**POLY LADYSNYT**
Turn Me On	*Kevin Lyttle*	**POLY TURNME**
I Want You	*Thalia feat. Fat Joe*	**POLY IWANTU**

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Sunday Lifestyle

The subject was roses, among other floral provocations

TONI Parsons, Antonio Garcia and Ponce Veridiano

PHOTO BY ROGER CARPIO

PLAYTIME

By the Staff

ON Sept. 29, when the Cofradia de la Inmaculada Concepcion hosts its "Noche Para La Virgen Maria," the gala dinner that ushers in the foundation's 25th year, dinner tables as well as images of the Virgin Mary and carriages will be abloom with the creations of five of the country's top floral designers.

While we have had Playtime interviews with groups of fashion designers, stage directors and photographers, we have neglected floral designers, they whose artful arrangements are used to woo, to console, to cheer, to dramatize—to do so many things despite their fragile and ephemeral nature.

And so to correct this oversight, we asked the Cofradia flower powers to come and play. This time, the playground was Cofradia event chair Fe Rodriguez's home where the Lifestyle crew was served delicious food prepared by her son Junie.

Only three of the five, however, could make it to the interview. Robert Blancaflor, a favorite at weddings and special events and owner of the 1816 Flower Shop, was taken ill the previous day. Rachy Cuna, who has been guest editor for this section twice, was busy decorating the Cultural Center of the Philippines stage for this year's Ramon Magsaysay Awards.

Thankfully, the three artists who sat down with us more than filled the vase with the colors and the textures of their ideas.

For Antonio Garcia, flower arranging was a hobby until he realized he could make a career out of it. In 1996, he put up the upscale flower shop Mabolo at the Forbes Park Arcade and quickly cornered corporate accounts, homes, restaurants and high-profile weddings.

Ponce Veridiano, landscape artist to the rich and famous, could not be coaxed into naming his clients. He was the genius behind the arrangements of white flowers and foliage at the chapel where family and friends paid their last respects to designer Joe Salazar.

Toni Parsons, owner of 517 Flower Company on Remedios Street in Malate and at 6750 Ayala Avenue, has been in the flower business for about 15 years. She also manages the flower shop at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel.

All well-known for their floral provocations, these artist will try their best on Sept. 29 to produce floral masterpieces that can cause even the most brooding virgins to swoon.

Do you consider yourselves florists or landscape artists, or can you easily crossover from one to the other?

Toni Parsons: For me, landscaping and arranging are one and the same thing. Flower arranging is for me, *parang* landscaping in a small container, whereas landscaping actually is big scale. But when you're working on landscaping, you should be ready to have lots of time.

Antonio Garcia: *Mahirap sabihin*, but we can be both.

Ponce Veridiano: Yeah, we're flexible.

AG: The only thing that makes it difficult, in the case of Ponce and my case, [is] it's either you do landscape professionally and you hobby out once in a while *yung paggawa ng mga bulaklak*, or you do full-time flower arrangements and you hobby out once in a while doing your garden.

PV: Flower arrangement is my hobby, but I really do landscape. I don't know much about the behavior of the flowers. But I know where to put the plants, I know how to combine them. Like, this is for the shades, this is for that. But with flowers I have no idea. Buying flowers for their colors, I mean the concept, yes, but not the behavior of the flowers. Like some flowers are very sensitive.

Is Valentine's Day still the busiest day for florists, or has that changed?

AG: On Valentine's, honestly, I'm not in the shop. (Laughter) It's *magulo eh.*

TP: I think it's a toss-up between Valentine's and All Soul's Day. There are so many people who are not only romantic but also sentimental. And there are some men who buy flowers not only for the wives but also for

THE SUBJECT/ F2

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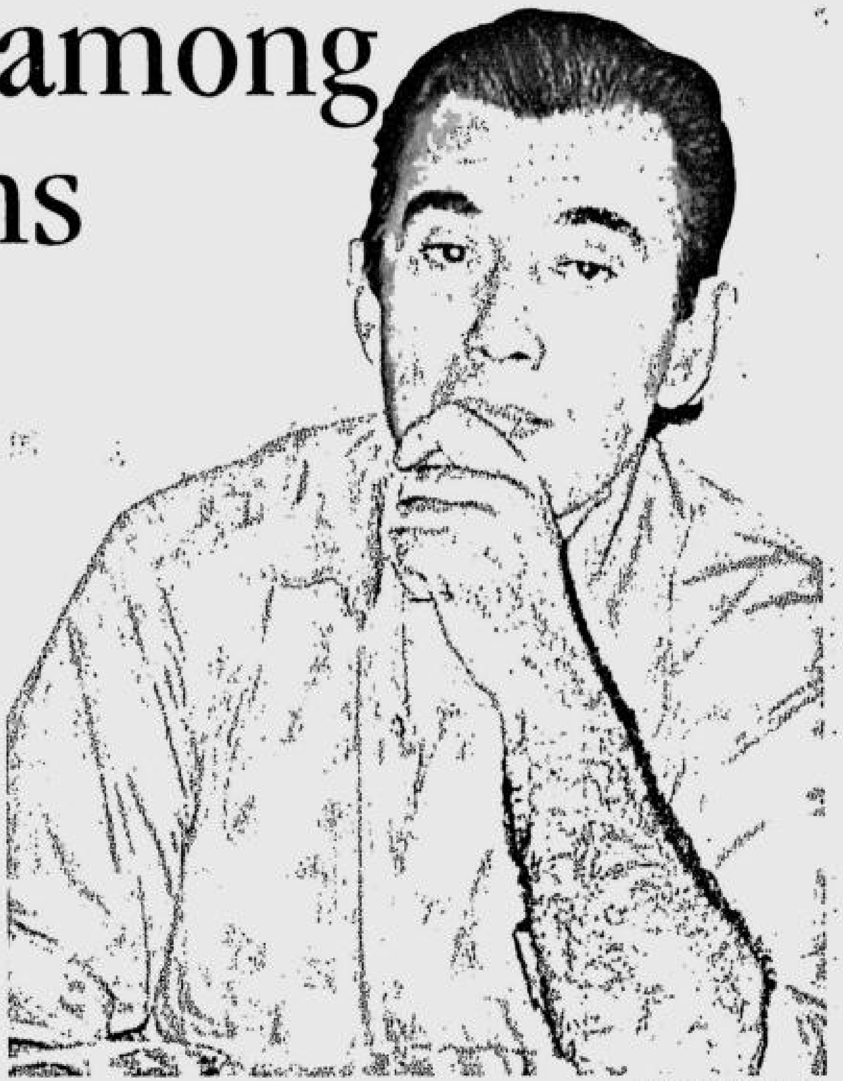
The subject was roses, among other floral provocations



PHOTOS BY ROGER CARPIO

From page F1

the extra-extra.

Do you have a special arrangement for the *queridas* and another style for the wives? (Laughter)

TP: No, no...

So, they're all treated the same by the florist?

TP: Yeah, yeah... doesn't matter who she is. See no evil, hear no evil, talk no evil. (Laughter)

Have you ever been in a situation where the wife goes to your shop and asks, 'Did my husband order flowers for so and so'?

TP: It's not nice that those things happen, but we have to be discreet. Otherwise, it will be bad for business.

Do you have clients who are superstitious?

AG: Yes, yes.

In what way superstitious?

AG: With the Chinese, unless they're totally eclectic and want to veer away from tradition, you're not allowed to use white flowers because white flowers are for the dead.

So when you know you're dealing with the Chinese, you just avoid using white flowers?

AG: No, we discuss it. You should take the initiative to ask.

How about weddings? *Mahirap ba ang* wedding because of all the people you have to coordinate with?

AG: Yes.

Do you always have to meet with the designer?

PV: *Hindi naman*. Once in a while *lang*.

The wedding coordinator? Then the bride changes her mind...

AG:... Or the family gets involved. (Laughter)

But weddings must be good business, right?

TP: Yes, very, very good business, judging by the number of wedding fairs that are happening practically every week. *Lahat ng* hotels *meron*.

So do you join wedding fairs?

TP: I never did. Never.

Why not?

TP: I find it too commercialized, too, you know, in-your-face sort of thing. It's nice to know that there are so many people that can do it now... I mean, anybody who owns a pair of scissors is now a florist. Those who owned a pair of scissors before used to be *barberos*. But now they are florists. (Laughter)

Which country is the biggest supplier of flowers in the world?

TP: Holland is the biggest supplier. Biggest consumer is Germany. *Kasi* they're the ones with...

AG: Money.

How can Holland supply flowers during the winter? They also have winter there.

TP: Yeah, but they're so rich, the country is so rich they have greenhouses. And you know the government helps subsidize the farmers, so if they need to lower the price of *kuryente* so they will be able to grow well, they do so. The Dutch are so clever. The whole world is growing flowers for them.

What do you mean?

TP: You know, the Dutch have contract growers. Let's say in Indonesia, they'll tell them to grow the bulbs, because in Indonesia it would take them 2 ½ years to grow it from this big to this big. Another country, you grow only nothing but azucena. And *ikaw*, you grow nothing but carnation. *Ikaw* you grow roses. *Ikaw*, you grow lilies.

How are they able to do that?

TP: *Matagal na silang* traders. And also growers. But you know, they do less and less growing because the whole world is growing for them. So sometimes, here in the Philippines, you might see a flower, say a beautiful calla lily, that was grown in New Zealand, went to Holland, came to the Philippines. When you see this beautiful flower you sometimes think, *"Ano ba itong* flower shop *na ito, ang laki-laki ng tubo." Hindi kami nagtutubo*. That thing cost so much because it came from so far away.

Maybe Thailand can do that?

TP: Orchids, yeah. *Sila* orchids.

Why can't Thailand do what Holland is doing and trade in Asia?

TP: For instance, Ecuador. They have beautiful flowers and stuff that grows at 9,000 ft above sea level. Where else would you grow those? In the Philippines you'd have to grow them on top of Mount Apo.

No, that's not what I mean. I'm saying, wrestle the trading from Holland. Don't make Holland the center of the floral universe.

TP: Everybody would love to do that. Everybody wants to do it, but they cannot. Flowers are Holland's biggest industry. It's mind-boggling.

What's the hardiest flower?

AG: Cutflower?

Yeah, cutflower... Everlasting?

TP: Correct! (laughter) That's why they call it everlasting.

What about the new style of putting cut flowers in small glass tubes? Does that help at all?

AG: How can you compare a glass of water to a little *copita*? How can it quench your thirst? Same way with flowers. The more fresh water, of course in a very, very clean vase, the better. Those are just travel tubes. You have to take them out. They create much more bacteria quicker.

The tubes are really meant for transporting the flowers... So once you get the flowers, you should take out the tubes and...

AG: Cut it.

Should we put medicine in the water to make the flowers last longer?

TP: I don't.

AG: I agree with Tony. You just use clean water. Change your water daily if you can remember. So just try to remember to do it yourself and do not rely on your maid to do it for you. If you like those flowers to last long, you should be ready to spend a little time. That way they would last longer. Most flowers have a shelf life. You cannot extend beyond that.

What are your favorite flowers?

AG: I like paphios.

What are those?

TP: The common name is Lady Slippers.

What colors do they come in?

AG: Well, right now they still hybridize, so they come out in different colors.

TP: Among my favorites are the roses. I love roses. I like using them. I like using masses of them everywhere. Unfortunately, they've been hybridizing roses so that when they become thornless, they lose their *amoy*.

The bluish roses, are they dyed?

TP: The one they call bluish is actually more like lilac, more purple. The blue is dyed. It looks so ugly, no? (laughs)

What are you guys planning to do for the Cofradia dinner?

TP: We will have one *carroza* each and we will be given 10 tables around the *carroza* to fix the flowers.

Wow... This should be a sight to behold. Are there specific flowers to use?

TP: No, not really. As a matter of fact at our first meeting, there was a lot of ideas and I thought of the possibility of just going low. *Huwag na yung pataas, may paganito.*

So, you're saying low arrangement?

TP: Yeah. What are we doing this for? This is a fundraiser. So we should not try to outdo one another. They [organizers] have very little. It's a good thing they're giving us a budget, but you know it's very minimal because in this day and age everything is costing so much. Anyway, we plan to do our best to make this look nice. If you have a small budget, your creative juices will have to start flowing. *Sayang, sana* I came earlier. I could have listened to what Ponce's gonna do (laughter)...

Anybody who owns a pair of scissors is now a florist. Those who owned a pair of scissors before used to be *barberos*. But now they are florists.– **Toni Parsons**

They haven't talked about it yet.

TP: Okay, I'll stop talking so I can listen to both of them. (laughs)

PV: We were actually waiting for you. (Laughter)

So what are you going to do with your Virgins?

TP: My Virgin is supposedly in a *banca*. I haven't met her yet. The owner of the Virgin had a retreat last weekend in Pagsanjan.

So how many days are you given?

TP: When is our affair?

29th October, right?

It's this September!

TP: Aaaaaaggghh!!!! (laughter) So how much time are we given?

AG: I think it's in the morning.

Oh, you start at 10, and then the dinner is at 6 or 7 p.m. So you're just gonna see the images there on that day?

TP: I'm gonna meet her soon.

PV: I met my Virgin yesterday. *Maliit lang naman siya*. The amount of flowers that I'm going to consume will be very minimal.

TP: Give me some. (laughter) *Kasi ang laki ng akin daw.*

PV: But are we going to use uniform flowers for the...

AG: Tables...?

PV: Not only for the tables. What do you think?

TP: Good idea.

AG: You know, Toni, what we were talking about earlier is it might look *sabog* if you have 60 tables that are done differently.

PV: No, the colors are supposed to be blue, white and silver. *Anong tingin mo*, Toni?

TP: Perfect. No problem.

PV: Different varieties?

Are all the flowers coming from Baguio?

TP: Ah yeah...

AG: Remember, we have to take into consideration the recent typhoon!

TP: *Walang bulaklak, maraming bagyo.*

What are the least expensive flowers?

AG: It's very difficult to say what is the cheapest. Let's talk about chrysanthemums. Their prices can range depending on the way they're grown, the quality. You can get nice, big ones, and you can get the *tabi-tabi* ones, so it's not the same price.

TP: You think of it as when you go to a restaurant. You don't ask them, "What's the cheapest food here?" Though they give you a menu, you know, *pasimple-simple ka* you're looking for this is the not-so-expensive, this is the most expensive, but you don't ask them outright, *"Anong pagkain dito ang masarap pero mura?"*

What is the profile of a MToni Parsons client?

TP: I have a lot of walk-ins, and I also have a lot of clients that are repetitive, *na matagal na*. Now I've told you that being a florist is kinda the fashion of the year, and there's plenty of them around. The one who doesn't have the time can go to the next-door florist. The one who has a little time might drive out... or the one that is giving something, like maybe a standing arrangement for an inaugural, might decide to go to Dangwa, you know. *Kasi* they can do that also *eh*. They have so many people there that are fixing-fixing.

Why are there so many people at night that sell roses, *nakabalot lang*? Because a lot of people now have little farms where they grow roses. Some of them will talk to this group of people, "Can you help me sell?" So that encourages a lot of people to grow things. Now the fashion is having a leisure farm for the weekend. They're planning to grow tomatoes and other salad vegetables for their own tables. *Parang* it's becoming fashionable again to work with your hands.

Is it easier to grow vegetables than flowers?

TP: Better to grow vegetables than flowers. Much, much better because every single day, every single minute, somebody is eating. And if you're hungry, you have to buy to eat again, right? But every single minute is there somebody buying flowers? No.

But what if the flowers are edible?

TP: Correct! Yeah... These times when everybody's tightening their belts and things are so expensive, the flowers are the first ones to go.

They're considered a luxury, right? But in weddings, don't flowers eat up a big chunk of the budget?

TP: No, not really. The food at the reception, the gowns, there are so many things, you know. Flowers are only a small [part] of the very many expenses that are involved.

If you send someone flowers, that person would know, on a very, very personal level, the joy that our flowers gave her... If your neighbor has flowers that are so beautiful coming into your property, *putulin mo* and just put one by your side table, especially one that has a smell. Believe me, *iba ang tulog mo*. – **Antonio Garcia**

In a typical wedding, who chooses the flowers? Is it the couple or the parents?

TP: It depends. Sometimes, the bride and the groom have their own ideas. They have been talking about their wedding for sometime. *Meron na silang mga* album... you know, I saw this in this magazine, and this is Martha Stewart, and this is Tiffany, and this and that... (laughter) You keep on turning pages, *hilong-hilo ka na sa dami nilang gusto*. So you have to distill all that *kasi*, then the bride will come out with a nosegay, and yet in the next picture she will be in a gown *ganito naman yung* bouquet. (Laughter)

Compared to other forms of art, yours is so ephemeral, so fleeting.

AG: Actually, it boils down to if you send someone flowers, that person would know on a very, very personal level the joy that our flowers gave her. To the recipient, it means something. And the minute you get hooked... If your neighbor has flowers that are so beautiful coming into your property, *putulin mo* and just put one by your side table, especially one that has a smell. Believe me, *iba ang tulog mo*.

Spoken like a florist. Why is the sampaguita not a favorite among florists?

AG: The sampaguita is not really a Philippine flower. When I was in Sri Lanka, there was so much, much more there than what I see here.

So why isn't it a favorite?

AG: Difficulty, the lifespan and *masyadong maliit*.

PV: It's so expensive to use sampaguita because you have to use it in volume. You cannot appreciate it in small quantities.

But what about the *carrozas* in processions? Don't they usually use sampaguitas?

PV: You know I used sampaguita before, but it was so hard. It's like milfores, it's so *mabusisi*.

Did any of you have a formal background in landscape architecture or is it all instinctive?

Yeah, it should blend with the architecture. You cannot create a landscape, a garden, on your own. It should blend with the architecture. Like if you have a Mediterranean house and then a Japanese garden, there is no harmony, *di ba*?

You have to study the architecture first of the house, before you design a garden. *Dapat meron kang* background.

What is your background?

PV: My background is engineering. (laughter)

***Anong* engineering? Civil Engineering? Industrial Engineering?**

PV: Electrical. (laughter)

***Pag naglalandscape ka kasama na yung mga* lighting?**

PV: *Si* Toni, *yung* flower arrangements *niya* like landscaping. *Kasi ang* background *niya* landscaping. So every time *ay parang naka-landscape ang mga* flowers *niya*.

Do you own flower shops, a place to do business?

AG: All of us have flower shops, yes, a place where we do our business. The industry is broken, I believe, out of my own observation, into the wedding industry—which is very, very big and has gotten even bigger with the wedding trade shows—and the maintenance of the hotels and the outlets.

Do you have an association of florists?

AG: I am not a part of it, but there is one.

PV: *Ako din*, I'm not.

If you do a wedding, Antonio, do you get the flowers from your own

THE SUBJECT/F3

What do you think of people who buy plastic flowers? **Ponce Veridiano:** Also plastic. (laughter)

The subject was roses, among other floral provocations

From page F2

flower shop?

AG: Yes, definitely. But see, what happens is… for example, we have Mondays for corporate… so at 7 p.m. we're out there already, delivering flowers to the offices, conference rooms, you know, all that stuff. Wednesdays, Thursdays we deliver to condominium units and hotel lobbies. Thursdays, Fridays, *yung* residences… and in between… so more or less you have already a calculated quantity that you have to order extra from the retail sale, and if you have a wedding, you cannot eat into your weekly, you have to bring in extra… which is the same thing for the *patay*.

You also do flowers for the dead?

AG: A lot of dead. Because our base is corporate and, normally, if there is a *patay*—whether it's a man from X company, whose daughter, wife, grandmother or whatever passes away—they assign us that.

So it's the corporations that order from you?

AG: You know it can be for birth, it can be for an inauguration, a launching of a new product, a ribbon cutting for a newly-decorated floor of their offices and then, everything else extends from that. And of course, under corporate, what happens is, we also give them a corporate pricing structure. Because weekly *yan eh*, so of course we cannot treat it as retail sale. *Paramihan eh*. And in this industry, let's face it, *mahirap, hindi ka mabubusog sa bulaklak*. And we are dealing with perishables.

Are there enough florists to meet the demand?

AG: Well, from what I understand, in Manila there are around 24,000 flower shops. You just go to the cemetery in Sucat, that's still under Metro Manila, there are seven or eight flower shops… *yung parang mga tindahan lang sa tabi-tabi*. Those are still considered as flower shops.

Ah, so that's considered among the 24,000?

AG: Yes, in the Philippines, because of the Asian background, flowers are a big part of the lifestyle. In Thailand, no, they use flowers more for offerings. *Dito*, it's to beautify the altar. You know, it can be a bougainvillea or whatever… it's just a pity that we don't have a solid cut flower industry because it's not helped by the government. It all boils down to that. Where in the world can you get a dozen sprays of orchids for $1 but in Thailand? Fertilizer is subsidized, your land is subsidized. Landscaping materials in Thailand are very cheap.

Do we import flowers from Thailand?

AG: Yes, I do, we do. Mine arrives every Tuesday morning. Just three types of orchids. Because of the *bagyo* last week, nothing is coming down from Baguio. That's why a lot of us suffer. That's why we import.

Of the 24,000 flower shops, how many of them have… you know, designers, landscape artists… the works?

AG: That is very difficult to say. Filipinos are artistic by nature as a people. For example, in Thailand, they all have the same style. It's their culture. They do not have the initiative to look further. Filipinos are not like that.

Is that advantageous or disadvantageous for Pinoys?

AG: It's very advantageous. The Filipino as a couturier, for example, there's nowhere else that you can find *yung talagang marunong mag*-design, *gumawa ng baro* like here. But the problem is we do not have a textile industry. It's the same thing with us; we do not have a cut-flower industry.

You know, recently I took a trip to Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka is a very, very poor country and the only reason I went there was for a project. It's the largest foliage exporter in the world. All they do is grow leaves. We can do that. Sri Lanka experiences the same typhoons, and all that stuff. And the perishability factor [in foliage] is almost zero, unlike flowers.

But see, our industry here, I wish they would use the geographical strength to grow certain things *na hindi talaga sila malulugi*. Why are we insisting on growing tulips? Why are we insisting on growing lilies? We can grow our orchids, we can grow so many things, even foliage, and make that our strength, but we don't. *Sayang*.

> I wish they would use the geographical strength to grow certain things *na hindi talaga sila malulugi*. Why are we insisting on growing tulips? Why are we insisting on growing lilies? We can grow our orchids, we can grow so many things, even foliage, and make that our strength, but we don't. *Sayang*.–
> **Antonio Garcia**

Why don't you start it then?

AG: You know, that's a totally different business. It's either I do that or… for you to be effective, you have to concentrate on one.

What raw materials do you need as a landscape artist? Do you have the same source for plants?

AG: You know, in our case no, we grow certain things that we either use for our landscaping needs because there's not enough, so *pinapadami natin*. For example, philodendrons, which you can use as a cut foliage, and is very in-demand right now. You can use it for landscaping.

So you've also ventured into growing flowers and foliage?

AG: Yes, *para sigurado, magagarintiya yung* supply.

PV: Yeah, like bamboo, I grow a lot of different varieties of bamboo. You know, bamboo before cost only P150, but now it's already P2,550 per stick. What if you have to use like 100 bamboos?

AG: We have to plant ourselves and maintain what we call *mga* cooperatives. *Yung mga talagang pwedeng mag-alaga* and grow for us. Like, we may have one family in Lucban and I say, *"Patubuin mo ito, palaguin mo ito,"* and we will buy it from you. So it's their livelihood.

I don't have the size of property that's needed to grow things. I am very limited land-wise. And I don't have the time to concentrate on that.

You must also take into consideration that if you have a flower farm, let's say roses or orchids, you have to bloom-boost, you have to put fungicides, thus, it's already beating the natural process of the way a plant really grows. *Kung pinapabayaan talaga na walang* fertilizers, fungicides, you normally expect once-a-year blooming. But in a flower farm, you can expect that you can harvest flowers from a single plant four to seven times a year. Thus, you're aging the plants so much faster, so the life span of that plant is… *umiiksi*.

So you have to be replanting every time?

AG: Yes, yes, unlike foliage where you're just harvesting the leaves, you're not killing the plants. For a golf course you'd need a thousand varieties. And there are so many golf courses, *nauubusuan ng* supply. And golf courses, unfortunately, will chew a person down. "I'll buy all your 1,000 bamboo plants, *pero ito yung presyo ko*." So, that's what makes the prices sometimes unreasonable for people who grow bamboo.

So, if I need bamboo, I will compete with the golf courses for the price?

AG: No, not the price, the demand. And because of the demand, *tataasan nila yung presyo*.

How about the use of *bakawan*?

AG: *Bakawan* will only grow in the marsh; it needs salt water. It's really illegal to cut *bakawan*. Those mangroves are an ecosystem.

So what can you use instead of *bakawan*?

AG: Well, we use bamboo poles or they use *traviesa*.

Where can you buy *traviesa*?

AG: You can still get them in the Visayas. You know, I remember *traviesa* used to be P150 each, now it's P900, P1,200. And now they are graded… A, B, C.

What are the "in" flowers nowadays?

AG: Well, the flowers, *yun pa rin*… I mean, the rose is still—anywhere in the world—No. 1.

PV: The style, *yun ang nag-iiba*.

AG: Like for example, right now the trend in Paris, where a lot of style is born, whether it be in fashion or flowers, is the carnation. Carnations are in, and the tropicals are also very in now.

Would you like to invent a new style using a new flower?

AG: We try not to go into what is conventional *eh*. We try to break those barriers, *no*.

Is that something you advise other florists as well?

AG: Yeah, yes…break the tradition. *Kung ano yung feel mo, gawin mo*. But customer profile is very important. You have to know your clients. We have to know her interiors… very important… it's very hard to design flowers and landscape *kung hindi mo nakikita yung kapaligiran*.

Do you decide on the kind of flowers to use?

AG: Yes, yes, I do.

Are you partial to some flowers?

AG: Yes, I am, I'm partial to some flowers. I like the casablancas, the white beautiful lilies, which are the most expensive variety of the lily, but I don't like the pink variety of the lily. In my shop majority of the colors I have are white, pale yellow and pale green, a few pinks but of different variety, and then the seasonal flowers of Europe.

Do you go for bigger or smaller flowers?

AG: You know, I like to see a flower arrangement *na medyo maiksi*, and you play with the texture. I like texture and I like foliage.

What do you think of people who buy plastic flowers?

PV: Also plastic. (laughter)

There are people who can afford to buy fresh flowers and yet still buy plastic.

PV: They do that because of maintenance concerns.

Do you combine artificial things with natural flowers?

AG: No, no, no… never.

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A miraculous scapular

NUESTRA Señora de la Merced, patroness of Candaba, Pampanga

THE PILGRIM image of Nuestra Señora de la Merced is carried in a procession to a barrio chapel in Candaba.

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

LATELY I have been wearing the scapular of Nuestra Señora de la Merced to bed after it helped me feel better one night. The scapular, according to Dr. Jose Alvin Balatbat, is miraculous. It helps heal the sick. When Dr. Balatbat was in New York in 2002, he found the scapular in the religious store of St. Patrick Cathedral.

The scapular was a facsimile of what the Blessed Virgin Mary gave to Saints Peter Nolasco and Raymond Peñafort in 1218.

She told the saints to wear it when praying for the release of Christians imprisoned by the Moors. Today, the people of Candaba, Pampanga, wear the scapular during the 8 a.m. Saturday Mass in the church in Barrio Bahay Pare.

Devotees from other places who attend the Mass are given scapulars during the healing afterwards. The parish priest, Fr. Resurreccion Diwa, and the day's guest priest lead the healing.

More people are expected during the Sept. 15-24 novena ushering in the Virgin's feast day. Pampanga Archbishop Panciano Aniceto will officiate in the Concelebrated Mass at 9:30 a.m., Sept. 24. Since Aug. 2, the replica image has been in processions in different barrios.

The Damas de Nuestra Señora de la Merced, a group of women 50 years old and above who pray for priests, were inducted on Sept. 16 after the 4:30 p.m. novena Mass.

Help needed

The altar of the Nuestra Señora de la Merced church will be reconstructed after the fiesta. Those who wish to help or want to have scapulars can text Dr. Alvin at 0916-4453842.

Our Lady of Mercy

The Holy Trinity Parish in San Nicolas, Bacoor, Cavite, where Our Lady of Mercy is enthroned, will mark the Virgin's feast day on Sept. 24, with a 9 a.m. concelebrated Mass officiated by Bishop Chito Tagle.

People have been going to the church asking for the Virgin's help or to thank her. I myself went back to thank her for an answered prayer.

Boy Ponce is lending his *carroza* for the afternoon procession on Sept. 24. He will also dress up the image with new vestments and a new crown.

A "*karakol*" called "*indak sayaw alay kay* Nana Cedes" will be held 1 p.m., Sept. 19, from the church to the streets of Bacoor.

75th year

The Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception of the Holy Mother of God (SFIC) mark their 75th year in the Philippines this year. They came here in 1929 and are in the cities of Quezon, Baguio, Cebu, Zamboanga, Davao, and the provinces of Nueva Vizcaya, Isabela, Pangasinan, Zambales, Bataan, Aurora, Rizal, Negros Occidental, Davao del Sur, Agusan del Norte, Zamboanga Peninsula and Basilan.

They run the St. Joseph's College in Quezon City, alma mater of Sonia Malasarte Roco, wife of Raul Roco.

The order was co-founded by Pastoral Bernardinus van Miert and his niece, Sister Teresia van Miert in the Netherlands in 1844. From the start, they were committed to the care of the needy in whom they recognized the suffering Jesus.

Food products

I met Sister Mercy Salud and Sr. Raphael Hernandez through Aurora Lazo, who is helping them market St. Francis food products like cashew brittle, peanut brittle, skinless *longganiza*, cookies, peanuts and preserves like jelly and jam. They even have candies, pickles, bread/pastries.

The food products are prepared in the nuns' convent at 13 Villamor St., near Mine's View Park, in Baguio by women from poor communities, most of them dislocated by the earthquake in 1990. The nuns organized them into the Alay Kapatid Foundation (Akap).

Text 0919-6318853 if you want to place your order. You can text the same number if you want to go to a retreat house that is also run by the nuns.

Miracle in Avignon

Elenita Grande of Catholic Travel related a miracle that happened to her and other people on a Marian pilgrimage in 2002. It happened when they were attending the Mass being said by their spiritual chaplain, Fr. Teofilo Rustia at the Notre Dame de Doms Cathedral in Avignon.

There were 10 pilgrims: Norma Arrogado, Josefina Bulacan, Jose Bacani, Tess Chan, Norma Gualberto, Dr. Lily de Guzman, Drs. Lilibeth and Chito Naguit, Elenita Grande and the priest. As they lined up to receive Holy Communion, the Holy Host that Sis. Norma Arrogado was about to receive accidentally fell. Almost everyone saw the incident. Dr. Chito Naguit, who was assisting Fr. Rustia, bowed down to pick it up but it was nowhere to be found. We frantically searched for it without success.

"Almost all the communicants had taken Holy Communion except me, I was the last to receive the Holy Host. When I stood up, Father Rustia was still standing holding the ciborium. I saw with my own eyes the Holy Host stuck upright to the base of the ciborium. I pointed it out.

"The Host did not fall, but how was that possible?"

Sis. Elenita is joining a group going to Avignon in October. Those interested can text her at 0916-3452793 or call 6320223.

Trip to Mexico

Arpex Travel is organizing a pilgrimage to Guadalupe, Mexico on Oct. 22-29. Those interested can call 5253883 or 5253902. Pilgrims must have US visas to transit in Los Angeles.

Pagayaya

The Pagayaya Festival at the Clamshell of Wow Philippines, with Our Lady of Piat at center stage, is ongoing until Oct. 3. Dishes from Region II are also featured at the food festival at the Manila Pavilion's Café Coquilla.

In the ASEAN Chess Championship, a ProGifted Filipino emerged victorious.
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Chess Champion

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ProGifted FORMULA 2

With her chin almost resting on the table, Cheradee mowed down her opponents with a precise positional game, which is usually a hallmark of a mature player. "There's no doubt about it. She is the chess genius we have been looking for", said National Master and coach, Erwin Carag.

What is the secret to Cheradee's gift? It's really the combination of good genes, a stimulating environment and the right nutrition -- the kind of nourishment she also got from Promil.

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GREEN TIPS

The art of marcoting

By Serapion Metilla
Contributor

WHEN plants cannot be propagated by seeds or cuttings, marcoting should be considered. The technique is also useful when you are trying to produce the same variety as the mother plant.

Marcoting is done by letting a desired branch develop roots first while still in the mother plant before separating it to grow on its own.

Choose first the desired branch, which should not be too old or too young. Remove the bark of the chosen branch in a circular way forming a ring about 1 inch wide. Scrape well the bark's cambium layer and apply a mass of moist sphagnum moss. See to it that the debarked stem is entirely covered all around.

Wrap the moss with transparent plastic sheet, tying both ends. It is better to use fine wires instead of straw so it will be easy to close both ends tightly.

Some plants which can be propagated through marcoting are the *rimas* (breadfruit), *champaca*, Bauhinia hookeriana, jade vine, magnolia, medinillas and the Mussaendas (the Doñas named after Philippine First Ladies such as the Doña Aurora and Doña Luz).

Marcoting may also be used for plants that can be propagated by top cuttings if you want larger branches immediately as in bougainvillea, all varieties of ficus (*balete*), *gumamelas*, *sinamomo* (*Aglata odorata*), *kamuning* (Murraya exotica), *balimbing*, *chico* and others, especially if the true variety is desired.

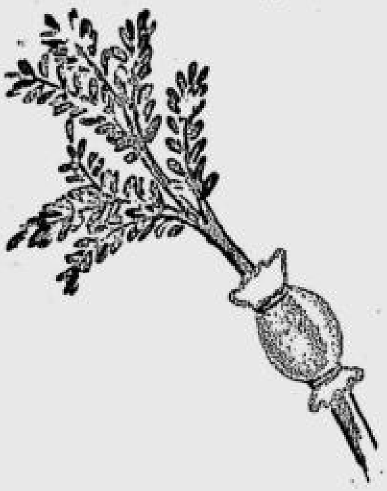
Some of the plants mentioned when propagated by seeds, for instance, may not be exactly the same variety as the original plant. This is because crossbreeding may have taken place. So if you want to get exactly the same variety as the original, it is advisable to marcot.

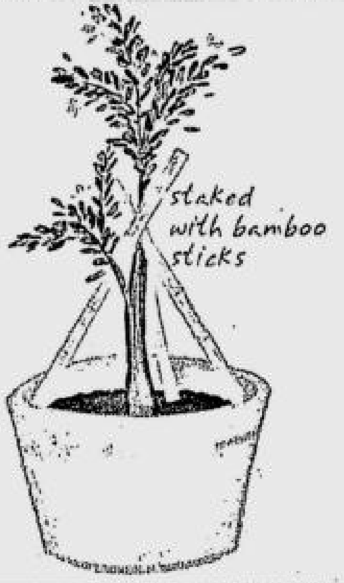
When already rooted (you can see a worm-like growth through the plastic sheet), cut just below the marcoted portion. Carefully remove the plastic sheet making sure that the moss is intact. Cut some leaves and immediately plant in pots using the right potting medium.

Keep the new plant steady with the use of three bamboo strips. Put it in a shady area or intensive care unit. Water every day. After two weeks more or less, when you think it is already established, transfer it to a partially sunny location.

Call 9394593.

> If you want a plant that is of exactly the same variety as the original, this is the way to do it





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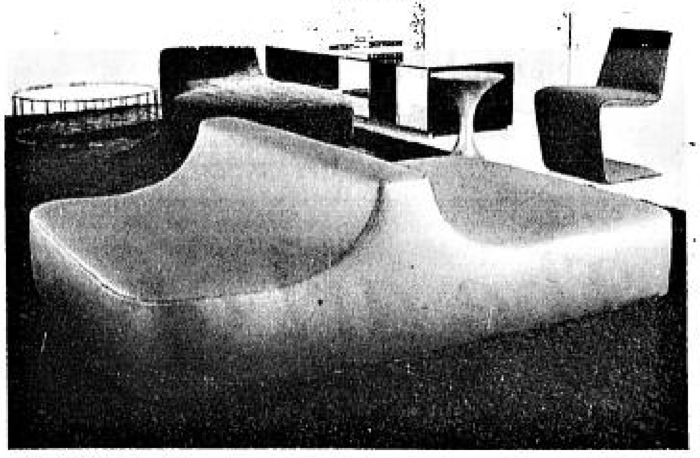
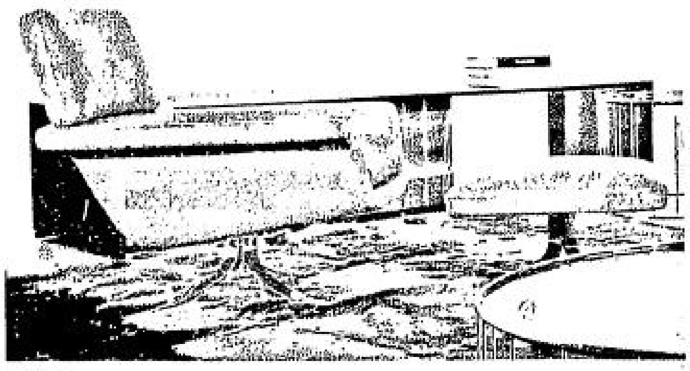


HOCKNEY Double



BLAKE

THE PARADIGM of 1960s design—clean, sleek and modern—is evident in the latest lines carried by Minotti, a premium name in furniture.

Nolan, its new, extremely versatile seating system, comes in three variants: Nolan, Nolan Small and Nolan Large.

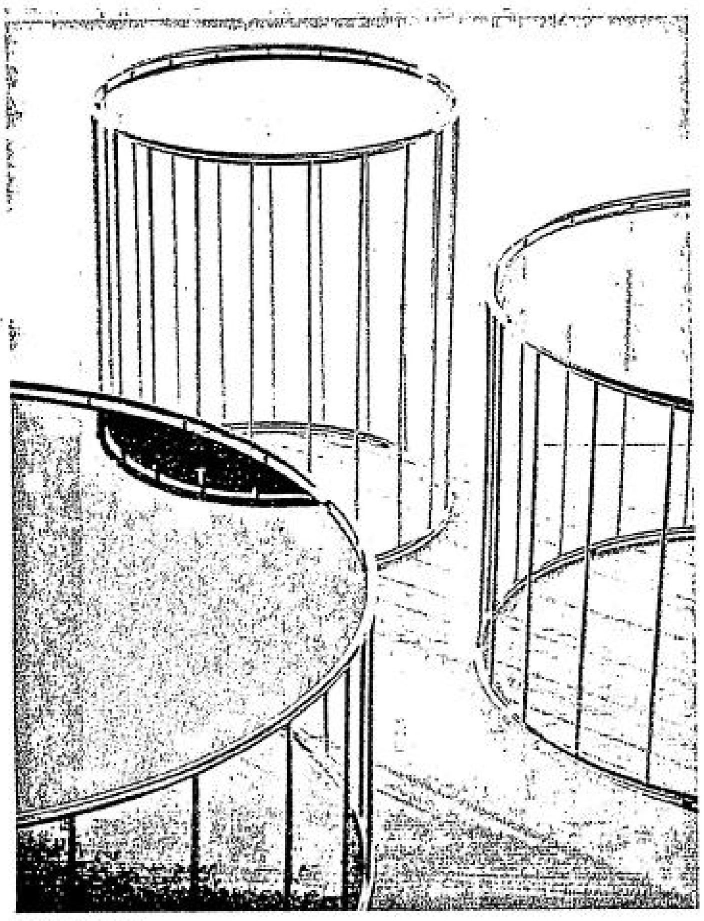
Nolan Small is perfect for singles or couples living in condos and apartments. All the arms, back, feet and base are modular and collapsible so they can fit into small spaces. Nolan Large, on the other hand, are big pieces perfect for grand living rooms.

The Hockney line of sofas is perfect for the more adventurous. Tagged by Wallpaper and other design publications as the most experimental of Minotti's furniture designs, the Hockneys are the furniture equivalent of avant-garde artist David Hockney's paintings, characterized by smart shapes and linear geometry.

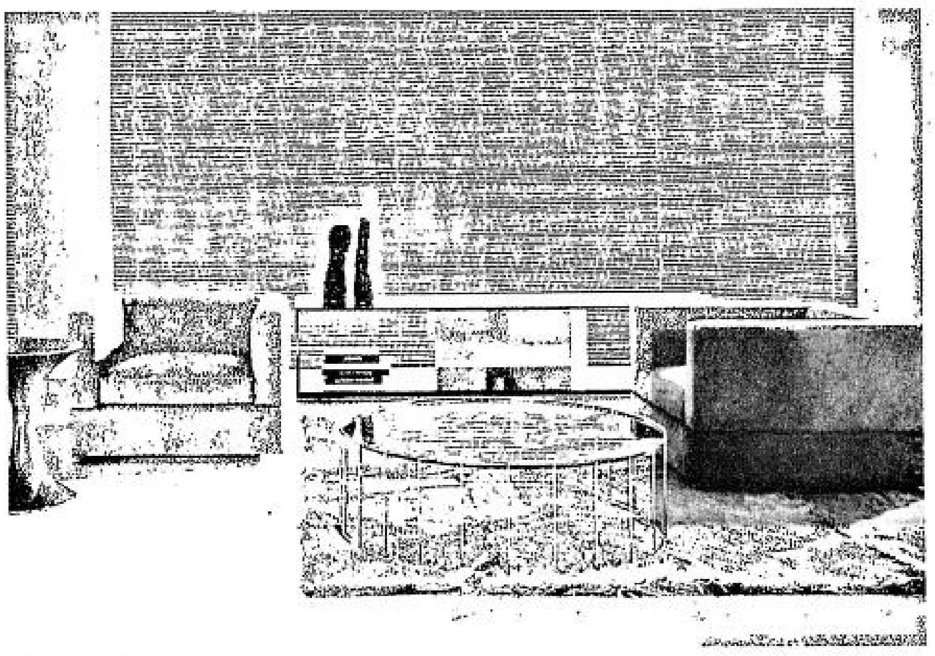
A futuristic design aesthetic is attempted by the Caulfield line of coffee and dining tables with the use of chrome-plated metal frames and smoked glass, balanced with bright varnish in several colors.

Phillips chairs and armchairs meld functional design and smart shapes, as do Blake chairs and armchairs with their sophisticated details.

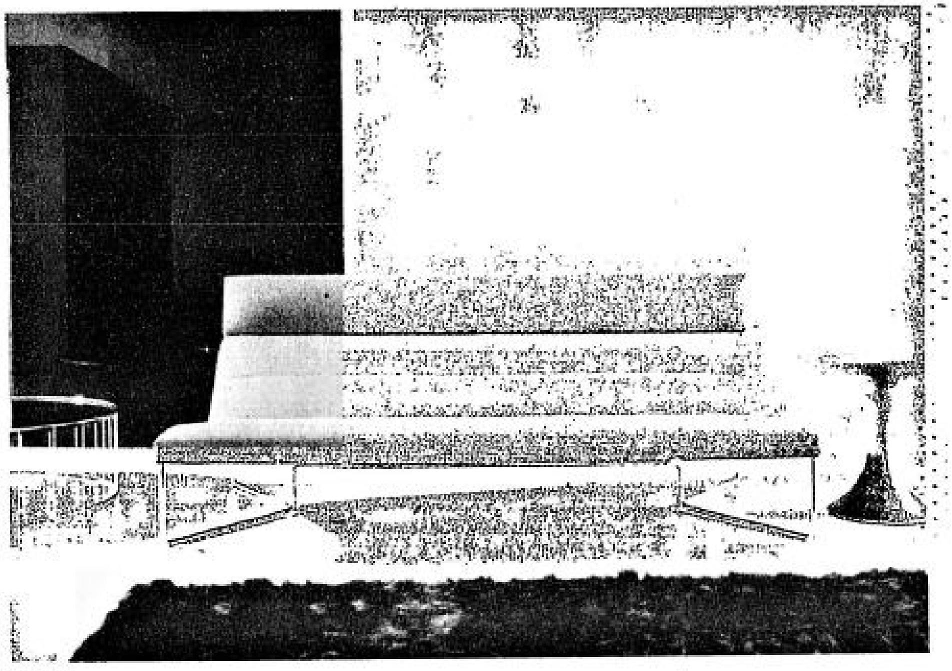
Minotti is exclusively distributed by Living Innovations Corp., with showroom at Unit 207 Makati Shangri-La Retail Arcade, Ayala Avenue, Makati City. Call 8122649 or 6879055 to 59.



CAULFIELD



NOLAN Small



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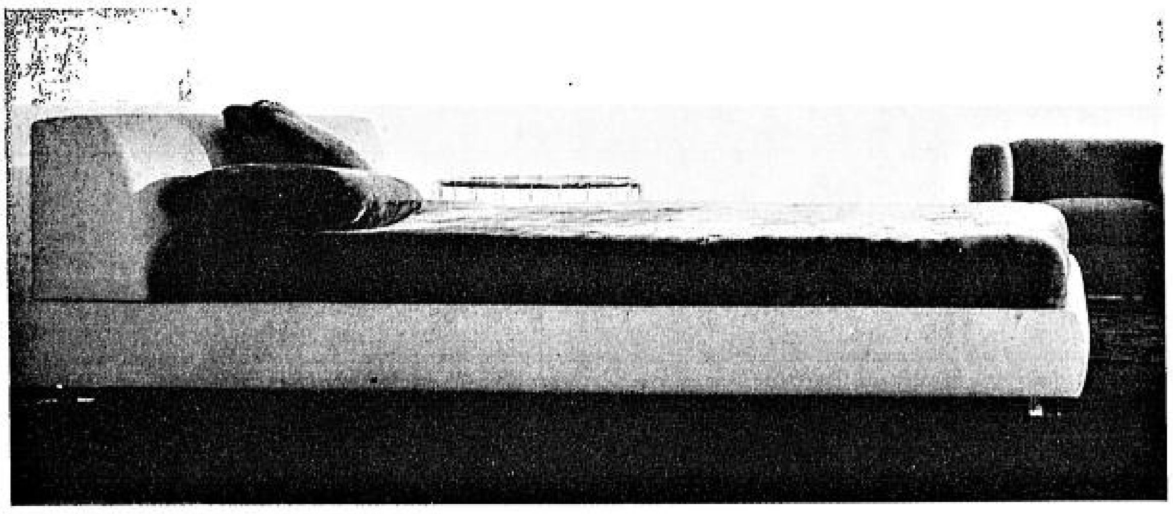


NOLAN-Letto

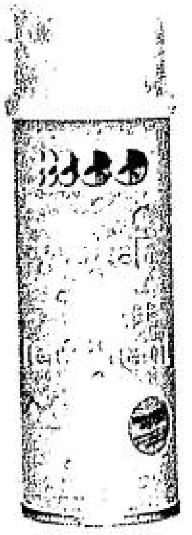
Caring for your caps

MAKEROOM'S Perfect Curve Cap Rack System is the most advanced cap display and storage solution in the market today. It is designed to adapt to the changing needs of one's cap collection. The patented clip design preserves cap shape and displays them front-forward for visibility. This rack can be hung on the wall, attached to the back of the door, or even looped over a closet rod.

The Perfect Curve Water and Stain Repellent, Cleaner and Deodorizer, and Cap Curver are also must-haves. The Water and Stain Repellent forms an invincible barrier between the cap and any substance it comes in contact with (water, dirt, oil, grease, rain or acid). The Cleaner and Deodorizer is a specially formulated cleaning agent that penetrates deep to eliminate grit and grime.

Meanwhile, the Cap Curver possesses three curve options designed to suit the user's wants, while the Perfect Curve Cap Radio is the first mini radio with a specifically-designed clip that attaches to any baseball cap. The metal material makes it durable, and it possesses a special contour so one won't even know he's wearing it.

MakeRoom is owned and operated by Stores Specialists Inc. and is located at the Glorietta 4, Ayala Center and Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center.



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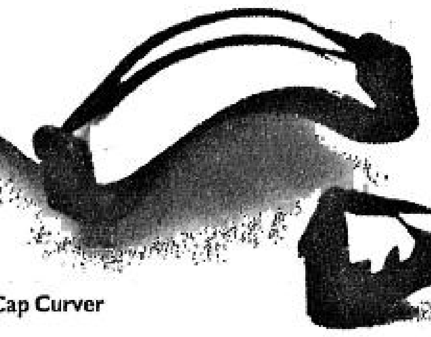
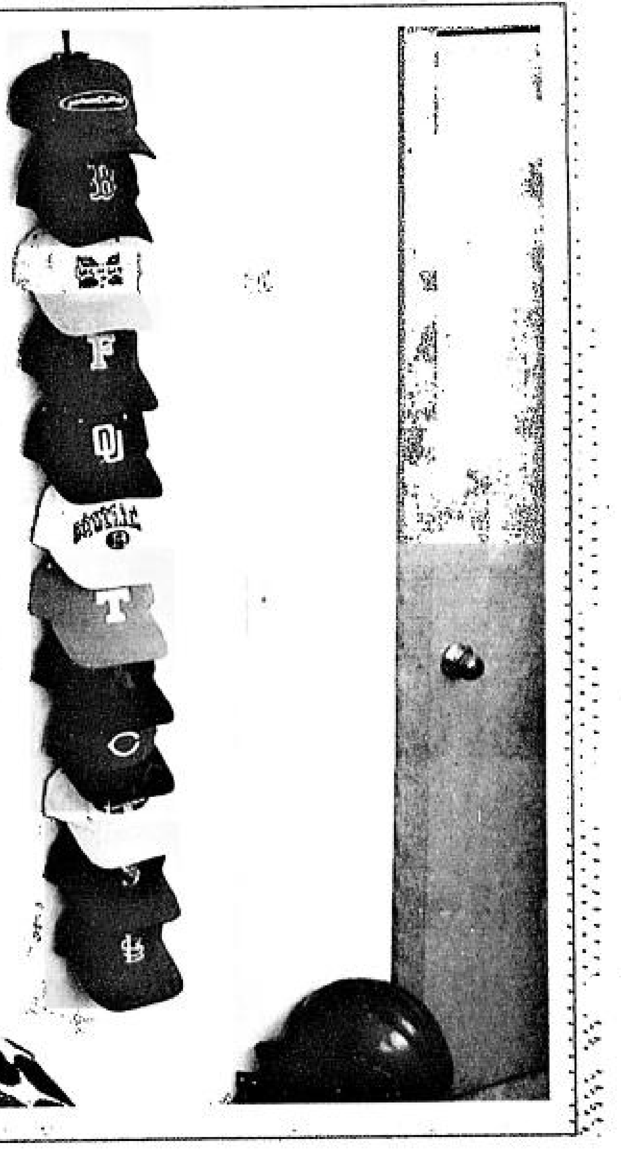


PERFECT Curve Cap Curver



PERFECT Curve Cap Rack

Self-sufficient home is way of the future

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

THERE is a technology—or a series of technologies—aimed at creating the "Earth Home," or self-sufficient home. Such a structure goes beyond the architectural, and is certainly a step ahead of the mixed-use development scheme and farm estates that characterize many building projects in the Philippines today.

The Earth Home is being developed by designer Mel Moench of Minnesota, USA, who has written books and articles about it. In The Futurist magazine, he explains that the Earth Home, or self-sufficient home, is where "inhabitants make their own energy, produce their own food and do their part to save the world's environment."

The Earth Home does all this by using a number of appropriate technologies, like power generation through solar and wind energies, photovoltaic panels and renewable energy, which entail battery electrical storage, high-efficiency lighting energy and energy-efficient appliances. As these homes can be built with green or alternative construction, they reduce negative impacts on the environment.

The Earth Home can use low-water toilets, waste-water treatment, water reuse, graywater systems and recycling to conserve water and reduce pollution. The attention to water provides excellent conditions for food production, especially organic agriculture, under-soil irrigation, aquaculture, even composting.

Home-control system

The technologies all add up to a home control system that saves effort, eliminates mistakes and helps coordinate all activities and functions in the home.

Many of the technologies stem from research for space programs geared toward making extended space travel or colonization feasible. Moench researched on different cultures to see what materials, food and methods withstood the test of time. He incorporated his findings into emerging technologies, as he considered it important to make the Earth Home practical for 21st-century lifestyles.

What this means, he stresses, is that the house, "has to become a living, sensing and reacting mechanism, needing no significant human intervention other than planting, harvesting and food preparation, (just like) an automatic mini farm." While the goal is to make a home 100-percent self-sufficient, it won't be possible "in the purest sense" because everything will break down at some point since water, sun, friction, heat and other forces are constantly at work. There will thus be need for component replacement and maintenance, for which some materials are not yet available.

One design fits all

Just the same, the basic design of an Earth Home would be the same in whatever clime it is built, with some adjustments or modifications. In the tropics, for instance, foliage through wall or roof lattices would be used to keep the sun's rays off the roof. In cold countries, the primary consideration would be how to heat the home.

Illustrations of the Earth Home provided by Moench showed us the placement of wind generators, the aquaculture and plant areas. At one side of the house, there is a greenhouse with skylight and compost doors. The design of the house itself includes the amenities of a conventional home, such as a screened upper floor porch, a carport and a main entrance door.

The innovations in the self-sufficient house reduce negative impacts like pollution from carbon dioxide concentrations in our atmosphere, and UV radiations that have, among other unfavorable effects on human health, caused the increase of skin cancer incidence. Self-sufficient homes, in fact, offer protection from infectious diseases, because there will be less occasions for air travel and interaction with other people. The long- and short-term benefits are many: Earth Homes will help prevent malnutrition by increasing food production (since each family grows its own food). It will reduce energy needs for agriculture and housing (as it generates its own); prevent global soil problems, and reduce the burden on world water supply.

Further tests needed

So, why are we not all living in self-sufficient homes right now? Because, says Moench, there still isn't any. To get everything right for 21st-century living, there is still need for further testing and fine-tuning. From the prototypes he has built, however, Earth Homes can become realities.

In the Philippines, availability and cost of components and materials will make it more difficult to start this project. Yet, we can dream, can't we?

What drives Moench on to his ultimate goal is an environmental philosophy that props up his project: "Human beings are stewards of the earth, and it is our responsibility to give this earth to future generations in the same or better condition than we received it." Notice that he believes that the human being's role on this planet is to be its steward, not its master.

Incidentally, the Asian Pacific Roundtable for Sustainable Production and Consumption announces that it will soon sponsor a workshop to introduce the Green Village concept that uses environment-friendly materials for house construction.

E-mail the author at dorisnuyda@yahoo.com

Many of the technologies to be used in self-sufficient homes come from research for extended space travel

Flower arrangement seminar-workshop

IKEBANA professor Serapion S. Metilla is offering a seminar-workshop on flower arrangement on Oct. 13-17 at Mett's Plant Art, King Louis Garden Center, Manila Seedling Bank compound, corner Edsa and Quezon Avenue, QC.

The course covers the following:

Day 1—Basic principles of Ikebana (Moribana and Shoka)

Day 2—Western style: All-around or one-sided and reshape

Day 3—Western style: Crescent shape, Hogarth line and flower shop operation

Day 4—Free style, buffet centerpieces and garland making

Day 5—Corsage making, bridal bouquet making and wedding ensembles

Classes will be held 1-6 p.m. every day. Fee includes materials, snacks, handouts and certificate of proficiency.

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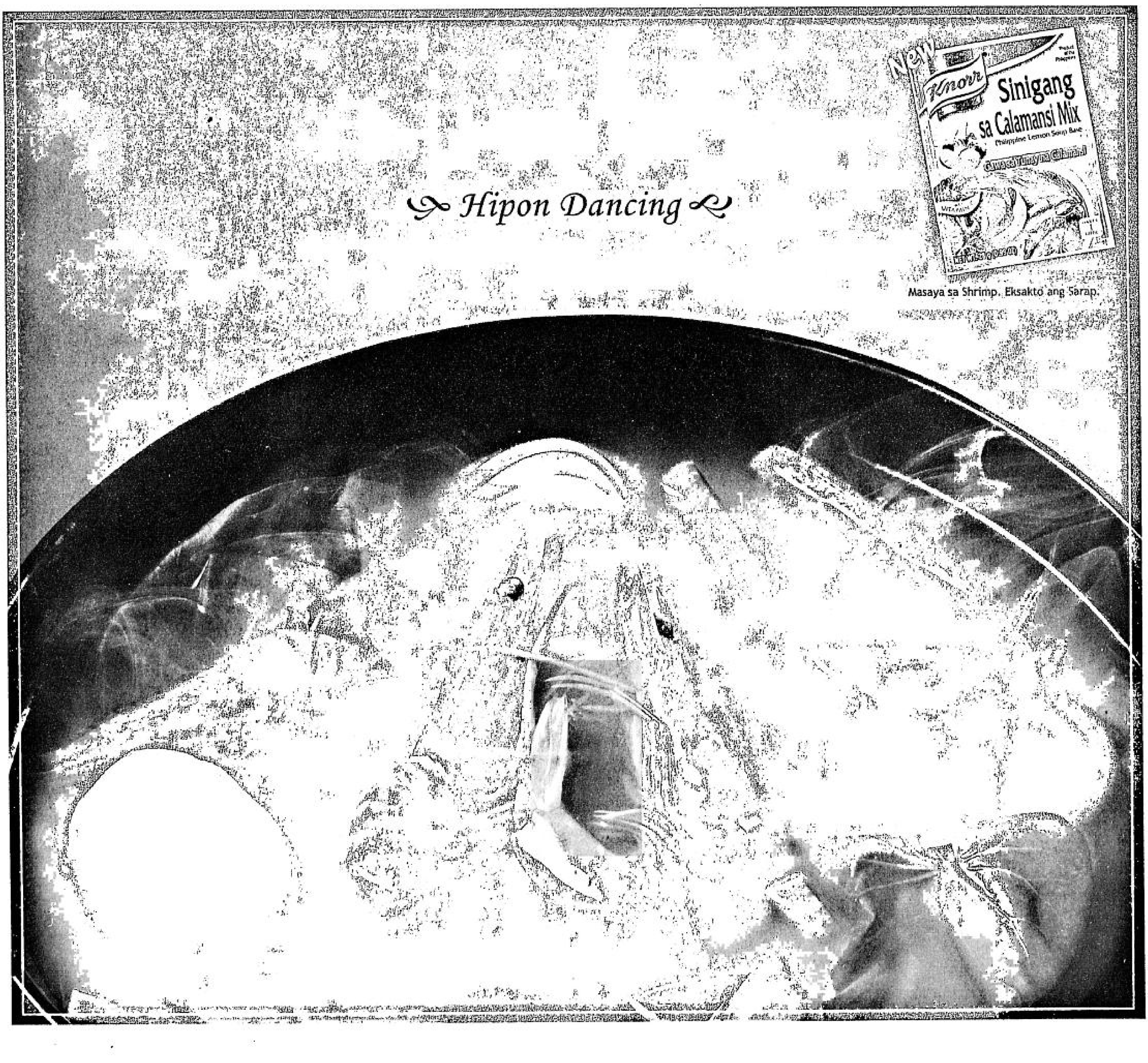

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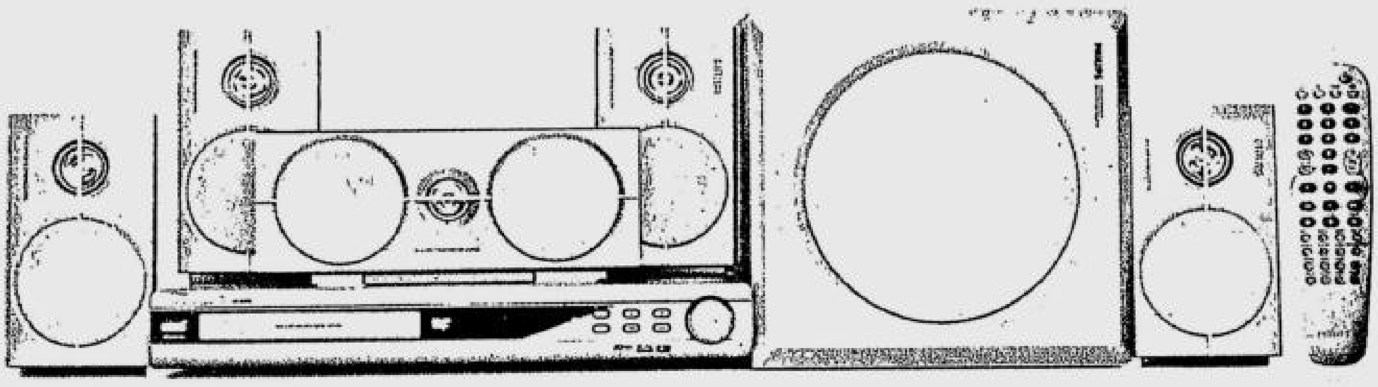

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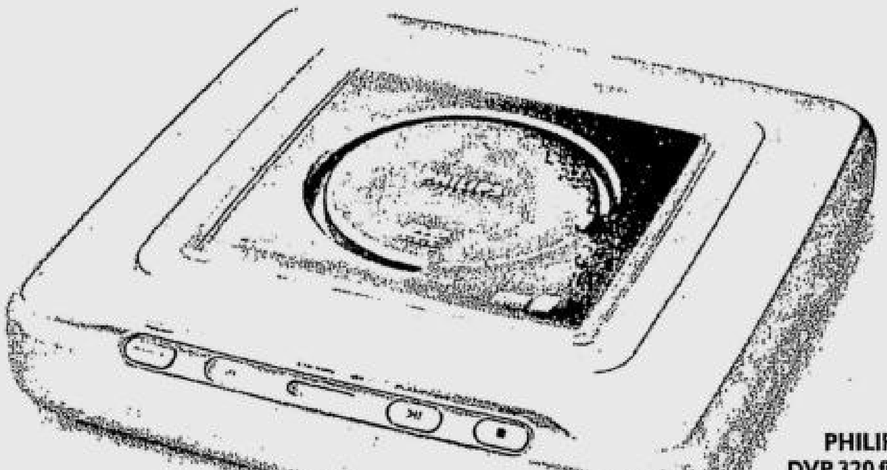

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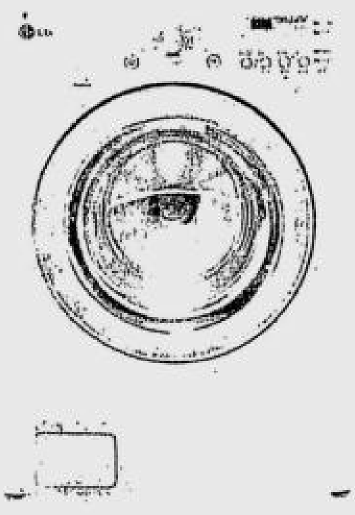
LGE has applied nano technology to its plasma air conditioners, side-by-side refrigerators, Cyking vacuum cleaner and front-load washing machines.

Silver nano particles provide antibacterial action and sterilization to clothes and water during the washing and rinsing processes. The LG Cyking's dust case is coated with nano-sized silver particles to prevent bacteria from breeding.

LGE's air conditioners run on a healthful nano plasma air-purifying system. The technology, called the carbon nano ball, has also been applied in making the interior of air conditioners bacteria- and odor-free.

With LG's application of the Nano Technology to its home products, consumers may have healthier, safer and cleaner homes.

Log on to www.lge.com or call 6402525.



LG front-load washing machine with a washing tub coated with silver nano particles, which provide antibacterial action and sterilization to clothes and water during the washing and rinsing processes

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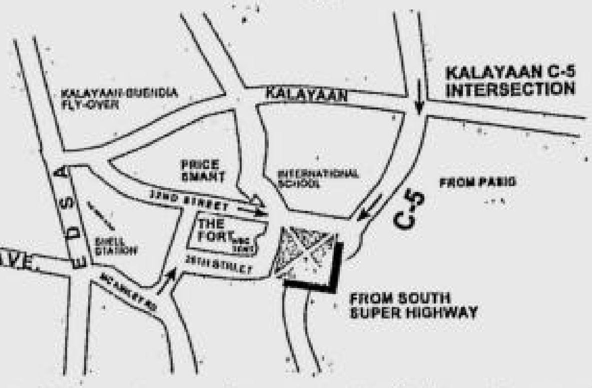

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LETLET VELOSO with her models and other members of the Glendale Fire Department

WITH Filipino-American models

Wowing 'em in the USA

After making waves with her cranberry red cheongsams for Lea Salonga's bridal entourage, Letlet Veloso wowed another crowd with her gowns for a show paying tribute to 9/11 firefighters

DESIGNER Letlet Veloso is back in Manila doing what she loves best—creating dream wedding gowns—after a fruitful sojourn in the US, the highlights of which included two major fashion shows and the wedding of Lea Salonga.

Not many know that it was Veloso who created the cranberry red cheongsams of Lea's entourage. They made for a stunning backdrop to Lea and husband Robert Chien's exchange of vows.

Then, in Glendale, California, Veloso did the gowns for a show that paid tribute to the firefighters of 9/11 at the Glendale Hilton Hotel. There she showcased her latest collection of embroidered wedding gowns embellished with Swarovski crystals. Firemen themselves modeled as the grooms, wearing tuxedos as they escorted models down the runway.

For the finale, the firemen once more walked down the ramp, but this time wearing their fire-fighting uniforms and carrying the American flag. The show was much appreciated by the mayor of Glendale and other celebrities.

In Hollywood, Veloso showed off her collection of wedding gowns at the Celebrity Center to a large Filipino-American audience. While in California, she also attended several functions of various Filipino associations, such as beauty pageants, debutante balls and fund raisers, and joined a number of bridal fairs. Veloso personally attended to the orders of her US-based brides and other clients.

But fruitful as the trip was, for Veloso there is nothing like coming home to her shop-cum-boutique in Forbes Park.

Call 8190411 or e-mail velosobrides2003@yahoo.com

LEA Salonga's bridesmaids' gowns designed by Veloso

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Actress & model Yu Yamada wearing Styling Rouge RS 250 and Jelly Pure Eyes P-2

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THE COUPLE'S parents with Dr. Genevieve Huang and Imelda Romualdez Marcos

THE BRIDE with bridesmaids Ana Charina Altarejos, Farah Altarejos and May Florentino

A moonlit night proposal

By Tisha L. Mandreza
Contributor

Without friends to stoke the fire of attraction, the trip to the altar might have taken longer for Dongie Alviar and Jennifer Ejercito

THEY were colleagues at Standard Chartered Bank. Jennifer Ejercito, who was assigned in the Alabang Branch, and Dongie Alviar of the head office, would bump into each other during the occasional business meetings.

Although both admitted later that they were attracted to each other, they did not do anything about it.

But things have a way of working out. Through the efforts of common friends, Alviar and Ejercito would constantly find themselves in group dates. They eventually began to learn more about each other and the attraction turned into something deeper.

On the sixth month of being officially together, he knelt down on one knee and asked her to be his wife. He couldn't have chosen a better location—the beach in the bride's family's resort—Vista Altamar in Ticao, Masbate—on a romantic moonlit night.

Though it was totally unexpected, Ejercito knew she had found in Alviar the perfect partner for life. With tears streaming down her cheeks, she accepted.

Ever since she could remember, Ejercito had dreamed of having the perfect wedding. And in June, with the help of her bosom friend Backy Reyes as wedding coordinator, the dream came true. As the groom walked proudly down the aisle of the Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park, with "Ode to Joy" playing softly in the background, his friends cheered loudly. Dashing in his Tony Galang piña barong, he wore a huge smile like a lottery winner.

The bride, her arm linked with her proud father's, Jesse Ejercito, looked resplendent in her Richie Ortega gown made of duchess satin with a tulle overlay. The gown had a long train with a chrysanthemum design sprinkled with handwoven beads.

Tears flowed down the face of the bride's mother, Marilyn Altarejos-Ejercito, as her daughter walked to the altar while 92AD hummed "Theme of Love Affair."

Officiating priest Fr. Larry Faraon OP, delivered a humorous but soulful homily.

Principal sponsors were former President Joseph Ejercito Estrada, Sen. Luisa P. Ejercito, Justice Manuel M. Lazaro, Marita M. Ejercito, Caesar P. Altarejos Jr., Rosalinda E. Ejercito, Raymond M. Altarejos, Dulce P. Anastacio, Jesus P. Francisco, Rade A. Alviar, Reginaldo A. Oben, Gilda G. del Rosario, Jose T. Sio, Rita W. Cruz, Jose Martin O. Aliling, Beatriz B. Leveriza, Hinahon L. Domingo, Ligaya E. Enriquez, Reynaldo N. Asuncion, Julianna S. Garret, Francisco E. Balmaceda, Helma V. Tuason, Rolando M. Zosa and Zenaida C. Sumulong.

Best man was Don Miguel B. Alviar while maid of honor was Jannah Ejercito-Surla. Bridesmaids were Anna Charina S. Altarejos, Farah Ana Y. Altarejos, Ma. Begonia P. Arcenas and Ma. Paula P. Florentino; while groomsmen were Mikhail Lawrence A. Inocando, Thomas Gerard B. Surla, Christopher M. Escudero and Mark Dominic M. Cabrera.

Secondary sponsors were Ma. Rica G. Pineda, Rebekah D. Reyes, Vijay Chulani, Paolo Marco Quisumbing, Corinne G. Astillero and Antonio P. Cailao.

Reception followed at The Peninsula Manila Hotel. Cocktails were served at the entrance of the tastefully decorated Rigodon ballroom by Jing Tañada. A butter fondant cake was made by Pixie Sevilla.

As guests enjoyed the sumptuous dinner, a short video presentation of the newlyweds was shown. Ken Altarejos gave a funny speech. He was followed by the equally entertaining father of the groom, Don Alviar, as the groom's mother, Georgia, beamed.

The newlyweds thanked everyone then the party began. Music was provided by the Brass Monkeys Band whose drummer is the groom's older brother, Jay. Alviar's cousins, The Herrera Brothers, also performed.

For their honeymoon, the couple went on an Asian cruise.

WITH PRINCIPAL sponsors Sen. Luisa Ejercito, Marita Ejercito and Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, who proxied for his dad, former President Joseph Ejercito Estrada

THE BRIDE with her dad, Jesse Ejercito

WITH THE GROOM'S siblings: Lorez and Luchie Yam, Jay and Peachy Alviar, George, Tracey and Miggy Alviar

WITH THE BRIDE'S siblings: Jeffrey and Vanessa Ejercito, Mikko Inocando and Jannah and Pom Surla

A wedding fair in Angeles

ANGELES City wedding suppliers' "Weddings and the City" 9 a.m.-9 p.m., Oct. 10-11, is a bridal fair and a tribute to the city's rich and diverse culture.

The festival coincides with Angeles City's month-long celebration of the feast of the Holy Rosary.

The exhibit, which will be like a trip down memory lane, begins with weddings of the 1900s. The setting is a grand household, where receptions then were usually held. Wedding pictures, actual gowns and accessories will be displayed.

The next exhibit area is all about present and future weddings. Reception is set up in the garden and poolside area. Displays will include cakes, photos and videos, coordination, floral and balloon arrangement, food caterers, music and entertainment, invitations and giveaways, makeup artists and gowns.

Some 60 suppliers are expected to participate.

With the Fiestang Kuliat Committee, Batis Asul will hold a Kapampangan Food Festival at the Bale Herencia. The special luncheon buffet will feature the best fiesta food in the city. Cost is P500 per person.

Proceeds from this project will be for the benefit of the Museo ning Angeles.

In the evening of the first day, 15 of the best designers in Pampanga will hold a bridal fashion show, presenting their versions of bridal gowns from the turn of the century to the present.

The closing of the fair on the second day will be highlighted by the Angeles City Wedding Suppliers Hall of Fame that will honor people who have contributed to the growth of the wedding supply industry.

Admission to the two-day event is free.

EDSA Shangri-La's "Wedding Celebrations 2005" ribbon-cutting ceremony: Vanessa Suatengco, resident manager; Gary Estrada and daughter; Bernadette Allyson; Patrick Paez and daughter; Daphne Oseña; Kristine Gonzales (daughter of Mandaluyong Mayor Boyet Gonzales) with fiance Rodney Torres and ESL general manager Wolfgang Krueger

Milestones

We're accepting announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple to the INQUIRER office, or P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City, or e-mail lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.

TONSETH-AMAMIO

Harald Vollene Tonseth and **Nida Nalzaro Amamio** married recently in civil rites, followed by a church wedding at Sta. Rita Church in Gingoog City on Aug. 28. Reception followed at the Duka Bay Resort in Medina, Misamis Oriental. The bride wore an **Edgar Allan** creation.

ISMAEL-EBUE

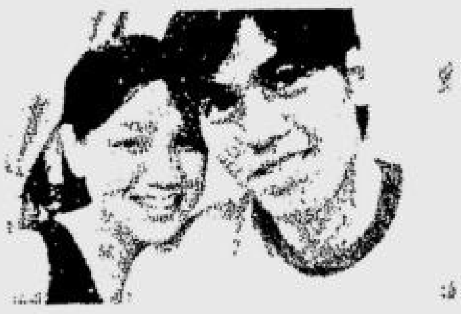
Leonil M. Ismael and **Maricel I. Ebue** tied the knot recently at the St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Kalibo, Aklan. **Rommel Constantino** and **Ernie Teodosio** of 5672 and **Marjorie Ismael** were the event organizers.

BRIONES-TUAYON

Rafael Briones, son of **Pablo** and **Sally Briones**, wed **Loverly Tuayon**, daughter of **Roberto** and **Anita Tuayon**, recently at the St. Joseph the Worker Parish Church in Numancia, Aklan.

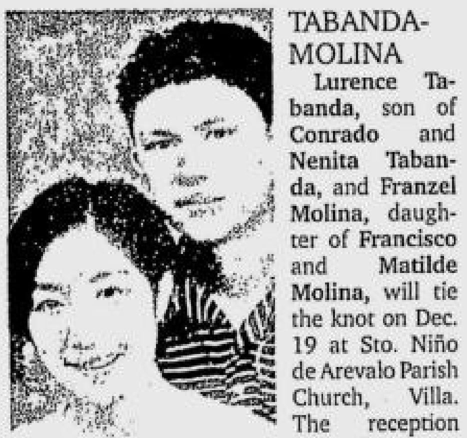
VILLANUEVA-LUAKIAN

Clint Lao Villanueva and **Betsy Malapitan Luakian** tied the knot recently at the Parish of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary in West Triangle, QC. The reception was held at the Rigodon Ballroom of the Peninsula Manila in Makati. The bridal gown was by **Leonard Co**, and the flowers by **Rolan Roquero**.



TUGAOEN-ROLDAN

Alladin P. Tugaoen, son of **Mr. and Ms Anacleto Tugaoen** of Marikina, and **Johanna M. Roldan**, daughter of **Benedicto** and **Josephine Roldan** of Muntinlupa, tied the knot on Sept. 18 at the Mary Cause of Our Joy Catholic Church in Muntinlupa. Reception was held at Aurelia's Place (Elizabeth Center) in Muntinlupa.



TABANDA-MOLINA

Lurence Tabanda, son of **Conrado** and **Nenita Tabanda**, and **Franzel Molina**, daughter of **Francisco** and **Matilde Molina**, will tie the knot on Dec. 19 at Sto. Niño de Arevalo Parish Church, Villa. The reception will follow at the Sunset Terrace Hotel del Rio, Iloilo City.

DAVID DEBUT

Shiela S. David, daughter of **Alberto** and **Rosanna David**, celebrated her 18th birthday recently at the Pearl Ballroom of the Riverbend Hotel in Marikina City. The debutante wore a strapless princess-cut gown in melon pink, with coral and fuchsia chiffon ruffles encircling the bodice and adorned with silver beadwork and ostrich feathers. The gown was created by **Jontie** and **Nicky Martinez** of Galatea.

TERUEL DEBUT

Nelma Grace Monegro Teruel, daughter of **Nelson Teruel** and **Norma Monegro-Teruel** of Iloilo City, celebrated her 18th birthday on Sept. 11 at the Poinsettia Hall of the Four Seasons Hotel in Iloilo City. Nelma Grace is a nursing student of the University of San Agustin, Iloilo City. The debutante wore a gown created by **Eric de los Santos**.

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PER DOH-BFAD Permit # 0906 Series of 2004

A marrying season for Cebuanos

CEBU CEBU

Jaime Picornell

WEDDING bells have been ringing for Cebuanos, some of them in nearby isles, others in faraway climes. One of the grandest was the marriage of **Darren Deen** and **Rica King**. She is the pretty and very enterprising daughter of **Ricardo** and **Linda King**; he is the son of prominent lawyer **Danny** and **Zeny Deen**.

The ceremony was held at the Sacred Heart Parish Church, beautifully decorated by **Rosebud Sala**. The reception was at the Grand Convention Center, transformed by **Teresing Mendezona** into a garden with towering trees dripping with white orchids.

Rica's gown drew oohs and aahs. It was a creation of **Monique Lhuillier**, who personally took the bride's measurements when she was in Cebu last Christmas. A magnificent buffet was served, and there was entertainment, too.

Best of all, Rica's uncles **Mario**, **Luis** and **Robin King** performed "The Way You Look Tonight." Dance music played until the crack of dawn.

Prominent families

Teresing M was also responsible for the splendor at the Santo Tomas Parish Church of Danao City (north of Cebu City) for the wedding of **Chris Aldeguer** to **Mary Beatriz Durano** of the prominent political dynasty. Indeed, this was the union of two very well-known families.

The bride is the daughter of **Ramon Durano III** and **Elizabeth Hotchkiss Durano**; the bridegroom, the son of **Antonio Aldeguer** and **Lou Pastrano Aldeguer**. The reception was at the stately home of the Durano family with its lush garden.

In 'fairyland'

For **Lia Feraren** and **Leo Reznicek**, it all came out just as they planned a year ago. Their wedding took place at the pilgrim church of Streichenkirche in Chiemgau, near the village of Schleling in Bavaria, Germany. It is a beautiful baroque church in an area that could well be the closest thing to fairyland, in Lake Chiemsee.

Lia's parents **Joji** and **Chickie Feraren** (née Reyes) flew in from the Philippines, and were welcomed by Leo's family, led by his mother **Renate Liertz**, and his father, **Peter Reznicek**. The morning rites were followed by a luncheon at the church's adjoining guest house. In the evening everyone took a boat trip on the lake to have dinner at the little island of Fraueninsel.

Candlelit wedding

The Cebu cathedral was the scene for the candlelit wedding of **Pia Seno**, daughter of former Cebu City councilor **Franklin Seno** and **Evelyn Regner Seno**, to **Sean Campbell**, only son of **Harry Cam pbell** and **Carmen Adad Campbell**. Teresing M, being Carmen's sister, made it all quite sublime.

RICA and Darren Deen

A WEDDING in Tacloban—Tess and Irving Tan

The reception was at the Cebu Country Club where the décor was designed by the bride and groom. Chandelier-like cloth lamps hung from the ceiling, softly lighting the place while jeweled Cebuanas, who were among the *madrinas* (*ninang* to Tagalogs)—**Julieta Borromeo Samonte, Annie Osmeña Aboitiz, Amparito Llamas Lhuillier, Annabelle Corn Lu Ym** and **Hazel Graham Gonzalez**—sparkled.

Among the *padrinos* (*ninong*) were two distinguished gentlemen from Manila—**Tolo Igual**, as suave and cavalier as ever; and **Carlos Palanca III**, our dear friend from way back, who came with his lovely wife **Criselda**. They are both frequent visitors in Cebu where they have a legion of friends.

Sean and Pia chose Filipino *jusi* for their wedding outfits—he an elaborate barong, and she a gown designed by **Joy Bernaldez**. The wedding cake from Chedz was covered with thousands of pearls. "They're edible," winked mother-of-the-bride Evelyn. Dancing to Latin beat went on all night, and well into morning.

Hometown wedding

Maria Theresa Mutia, daughter of **Celedonio Mutia** and **Teresita Tan Mutia**, chose her hometown of Tacloban City for her wedding to **Irving Tan**, son of **Danny Tan** and **Marlinda Angbetic Tan**. The ceremony was at the Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish Church, followed by a reception at the Kanhuraw Convention Hall.

Every highlight of the wedding was faithfully filmed, and shown a week later when Irving and Tess had a reception in Cebu at the Marriott Hotel. They were hands-on into the celebration, supervising the most minute details of the menu. "Make me a grandfather as soon as possible," said father-of-the-groom Danny, when the toasts came.

Special papal blessing

It was a two-hour wedding packed with emotion at the Sacred Heart Parish for **Raymond Lim** and **Khristina Chiongliu**. Following every detail with misty eyes were the groom's parents, **Sergio Lim** and **Ruby Gotiong Lim**, and her guardians, **Ruben** and **Becca Yap**. The. Catholic ritual was interspersed with Chinese family traditions. The reading of a special blessing from Pope John Paul II capped the event.

A glittering reception followed at the Atlantic Hall of the Waterfront Cebu City Hotel. It was lots of fun, especially for Raymond's Ateneo *barkada* who came in full force. Great applause followed the rendition of "Deep in My Heart" by Raymond's dad, Serge.

PIA and Sean Campbell wore *jusi* at their wedding.

LIA Feraren and Leo Reznicek were married in Bavaria.

KHRISTINA and Raymond Lim

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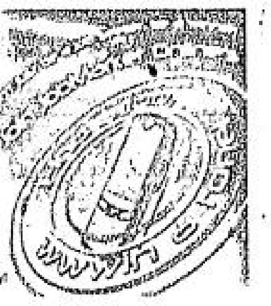

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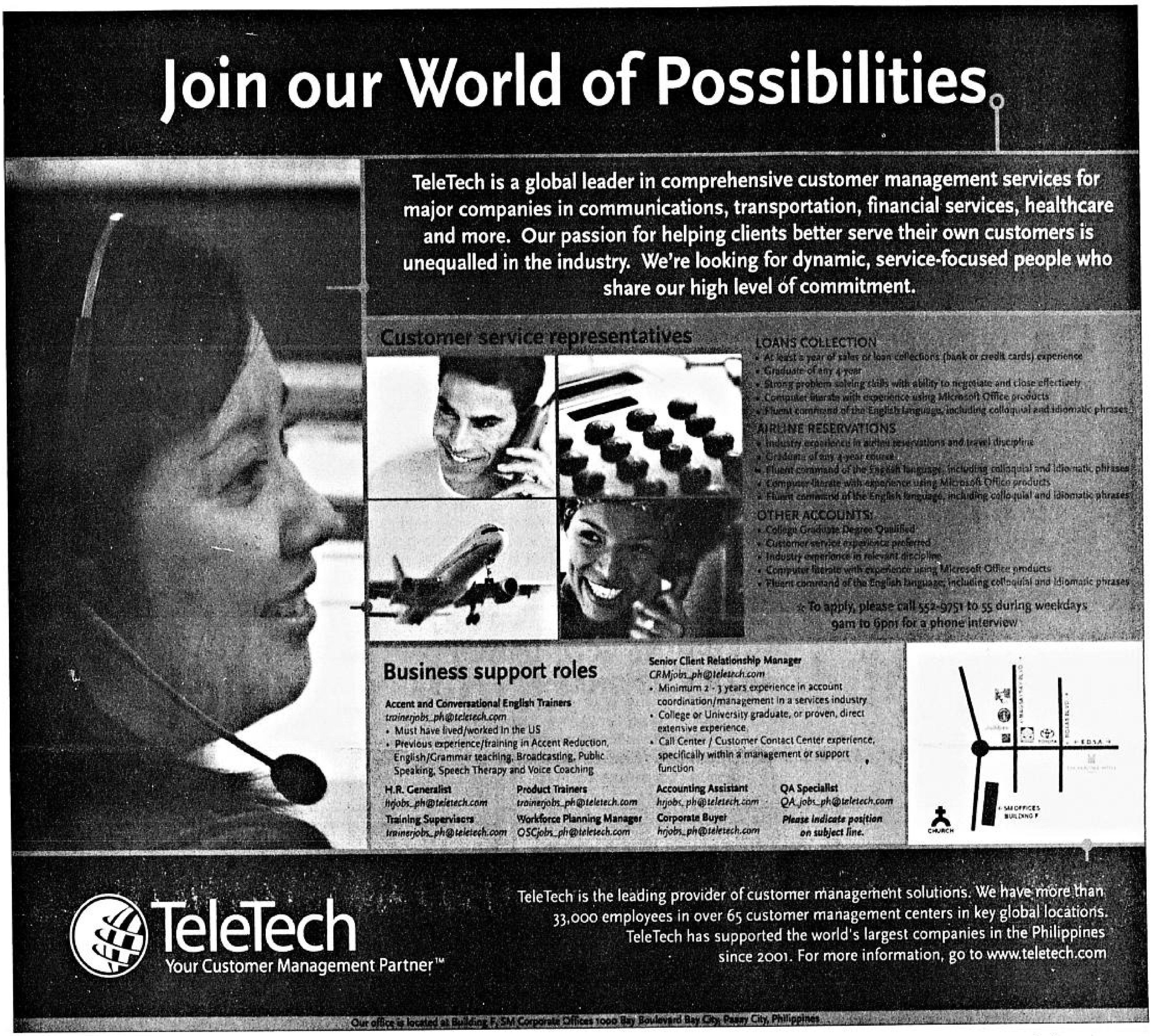

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TeleTech is the leading provider of customer management solutions. We have more than 33,000 employees in over 65 customer management centers in key global locations. TeleTech has supported the world's largest companies in the Philippines since 2001. For more information, go to www.teletech.com

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CBM

CONSOLIDATED BUILDING MAINTENANCE, INC.
G/F Jovan Condominium 600 Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

Our company has been in the business for over 30 years with a manpower consisting of over a thousand personnel rendering services to various clients most of which are multinational corporations, embassies, banks and hospitals in Metro Manila. We are currently in need of dynamic and dedicated people to join our team:

1. **PROFESSIONAL MECHANICAL AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEER (PME/PEE)**
   - Minimum of 10 years experience in facilities management preferably of Hospitals, Malls, and/or High Rise Buildings
   - Male, not more than 45 years old
   - Proficient in the application of computer software for facilities management
2. **REGISTERED ARCHITECT**
   - At least 2 years experience in civil works
   - Male or Female, not more than 35 years old
   - Proficient in AutoCAD and other computer software
3. **HOUSEKEEPING SUPERVISOR**
   - Graduate of HRM or any business related course
   - Male or Female, 25 to 35 years old
   - With at least 1 year experience in the same capacity preferably in a hospital or hotel setting
   - Computer literate
4. **ELECTRO-MECHANICAL / HANDYMAN**
   - Graduate of Industrial Technology Course
   - Male, 22 to 25 years old
   - Experience in the repairs of tools and equipment for medical, kitchen and office use
   - Computer literate
5. **CHEMICAL ENGINEER**
   - Male/Female, 25 to 35 years old
   - Experience in the formulation and mixing of cleaning chemicals is an advantage
   - With valid PRC license
   - Computer literate
6. **ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**
   - Graduate of Industrial Engineering Management, Management Engineering or other business related courses
   - Preferably Female not more than 35 years old
   - At least 5 years experience
   - Above average computer skills (Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Access)
7. **MASTER ELECTRICIAN / CERTIFIED PLANT MECHANIC**
   - Graduate of Electrical Engineering or Trade School Electrical Course
   - Male, 22 to 35 years old
   - Experience in the installation and maintenance of electrical wiring system in an industrial setting
   - Computer literate
8. **DELIVERY RIDERS**
   - Male, 18 to 35 years old
   - High School graduate
   - At least 2 years experience in motorcycle driving
   - With Professional Driver's License (Code 1,2)

To Apply: please send your letter of intent with your resumé and 2x2 picture via:
a. E-mail: cbmserve@mydestiny.net
b. Rm. 231 St. Anthony's Bldg., Aurora Blvd. cor. Cambridge, Cubao, Quezon City - infront of ISETANN (look for: CES # 9134752)
c. G/F Jovan Cond., 600 Shaw Blvd. cor. Samat St., Mandaluyong City - infront of CONSERVATORY (look for: AMOR # 5333494)

ADB

Fighting Poverty in Asia and the Pacific
Asian Development Bank's overarching goal is to reduce poverty and improve the quality of life of people in the Asian & Pacific region.

Benefits Assistant

The position is primarily responsible for undertaking a range of specialized duties in the day-to-day administration of ADB's pension plan for its employees (Staff Retirement Plan).

Reporting Arrangements

The position reports to a Compensation and Benefits Specialist and is supervised by an Associate Benefits Administrator.

Description of Responsibilities

The position is specifically responsible for:

Pension Calculations
i) assisting in the administration of the SRP by computing estimates of all types of benefits under the Plan;
ii) processing SRP benefits through the pension administration systems;
iii) updating consumer price index (CPI) and exchange rate data for the calculation of cost-of-living adjustments and currency options for pension benefits;
iv) computing discretionary benefits and/or contributions;
v) preparing the certificates of purchase and monthly summary of lump sum and semi-monthly contributions;

Data Analysis and Reports
i) facilitating the production of monthly and quarterly reports for submission to the SRP Administration Committee;
ii) assisting in the collation and extraction of data provided to the actuaries for the valuation of the Plan's liabilities;
iii) assisting in the preparation of the SRP annual report, explanatory booklet, plan document and the other communication materials to be provided to Plan participants;

Data Maintenance
i) maintaining and updating the database to ensure the enrollment of new participants in the SRP and any changes in individual records of active participants;
ii) maintaining records of applicants who purchased discretionary benefits;
iii) monitoring enrollment of eligible pensioners into the retiree life and medical insurance plans and monitoring the premium deductions for pensioners and their eligible dependents in such plans;

Others
i) preparing standard correspondence and requests for payments of actual services; and
ii) performing other appropriate duties that may be assigned.

Selection Criteria

- ■ Suitability to undertake the responsibilities mentioned;
- ■ A Bachelor's Degree in business Mathematics, Statistics, Actuarial Science, Business Administration or equivalent;
- ■ At least three years previous experience in benefits work, preferably pension or actuarial work;
- ■ Working knowledge of MS Word and proficiency in Excel and mainframe database information systems;
- ■ Ability to handle confidential information.

Established in 1966 and headquartered in Manila, Philippines, ADB's multicultural staff come from about 50 member countries. ADB's Headquarters in Manila generally recruits its (national officers or administrative staff) locally from the Philippines. The position is for a three-year fixed-term appointment. ADB offers a highly competitive salary and benefits package applicable to local staff. While the position advertised is for ADB Headquarters in Manila, Philippines, ADB staff must be prepared to serve in any location outside the Headquarters at the discretion of Management.

Apply electronically, quoting Ref. No. EXT-AS04-129(3)-BPCB and job title on subject line and attaching application form available on http://www.adb.org/Employment/appform.asp to e-mail address:CS-jobs@adb.org by 24 September 2004.

Human Resources Division,
Asian Development Bank
P.O. Box 789,0980 Manila Philippines

Due to the expected large number of applications, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Applications lacking the job reference number and job title or using the wrong e-mail address will not be considered.

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JOB Market

ISO-certified Multi-national Company engage in manufacturing various housing fixtures, committed to quality service and customer satisfaction. Awarded as Top Sectoral Export Performance Citation for Furniture Category are in need of the following personnel.

Assistant Supervisor

- ❖ Male/Female at least 21-30 years old
- ❖ Graduate of Architecture or any Engineering course
- ❖ With at least 6 months of supervisory work experience
- ❖ Knowledge in machine operation for wooden products
- ❖ Proficient in windows based programs
- ❖ Good inter-personal relationship
- ❖ Aggressive, analytical and assertive
- ❖ Fresh graduates are welcome to apply

Company Nurse

- ❖ Female between 21-27 years old
- ❖ Graduate of BS Nursing
- ❖ Experienced in Industrial setting is an advantage
- ❖ People oriented and can work on extended hours
- ❖ Fresh graduates are welcome to apply

Truck Head Driver

(urgent hiring)

- ❖ Male at least 30 up to 40 years of age
- ❖ High School or Vocational Course (related in auto mechanic)
- ❖ Experience in Driving Truck Head
- ❖ Skills in Heavy Equipment Mechanic
- ❖ With Professional Driver's License (R Code-6 & 3, 2, 1)

Forklift Operator

(urgent hiring)

- ❖ At least Vocational Course Graduates
- ❖ Male between 20-35 years old
- ❖ With 6 months experience in forklift operation
- ❖ With knowledge in forklift repair and maintenance
- ❖ With Professional Driver's License
- ❖ Good moral character

Forklift Mechanic

(urgent hiring)

- ❖ Male between 20-35 years old
- ❖ Must be an Auto-Diesel Mechanic graduate
- ❖ With experience in motor pool is an advantage
- ❖ With Professional Driver's License
- ❖ Good moral character
- ❖ Fresh graduates are welcome to apply

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You can mail or hand carry your comprehensive resumé with 2x2 picture and transcript of records at the above address.
For inquiries, call telephone no. (046) 437-0849 to 51. Look for Ms. Ronalyn Estorninos or you can e-mail your resumé at hrd_scad@pacific.net.ph

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Let's Study in Japan

From
the People of Japan

Japanese Grant Aid for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS) in the Republic of the Philippines 2005-2006

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has started the implementation of the Japanese Grant Aid for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS) through the assistance of the Government of Japan for Japanese Fiscal Year 2002.

The objective of the JDS Project is to provide Philippine nationals with opportunities for obtaining master's degree at the Japanese universities in order to support human resource development policy of the Government of the Philippines, and eventually to extend and strengthen the bilateral relationship between the Philippines and Japan.

The JDS Project targets young people in public sector who are expected to play leadership roles in the Philippines and people in private sector who are expected to contribute to the development of the Philippines market economy.

Degree to be obtained and Field of Study

1. Degree: Master's Degree only (2 years courses)
2. Field of Study (number of scholars to be accepted)
   - 2-1. *(for public sector)*
     - -Public Administration (8 persons)
     - -Economics (7 persons)
     - -Information and Communication Technology (3 persons)
   - 2-2. *(for public and private sectors)*
     - -Business Administration (2 persons)
3. Language of Instruction: predominantly English

Qualification Requirements:

1) Nationality: Filipino
2) Age: Below 35 years old as of April 1, 2005. Those who were born on/after April 2, 1970. (Age limit is subject to change without prior notice. Please confirm with JICE Office or web site.)
3) Academic background: Applicants should have bachelor's degree relevant to the target fields of study, except for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) field that requires bachelor's degree in ICT or equivalent.
4) Work experience At least 2 years of work experience at the time of nomination and presently employed
5) English language proficiency level IELTS 6.0 / TOEFL 550 (CBT 213) or above is required
6) Military personnel are not eligible to apply
7) Currently or in the past, those who have been awarded foreign scholarship for Master's degree are not eligible to apply.
8) Applicants should be physically and mentally fit to complete the course within its duration
9) Successful candidates shall attend full-time preparatory Japanese language training in Manila for 2 months from April 2005

Application

- Applicants must complete Application Documents.
- Application Documents are distributed at
  - JICE JDS Project Office, or
  - can be downloaded at http://www.jice.org/english/

Selection Procedures

- The First Selection
  Submitted application forms will be examined by Japanese University Professors in Japan.
- SCS Interview
  Successful candidates of the 1st selection process should undergo SCS* Interview.
- * SCS: Special Committee on Scholarships
- The Second Selection
  - Applicants will sit for English proficiency test in early January 2005.
  - Applicants will be required to sit for basic mathematics test at this stage.
- The Third Selection
  - Applicants will undergo the Technical Interview by Japanese University Professors in early February 2005.
- The Fourth Selection
  - Applicants will undergo the Comprehensive Interview in late February 2005.
  - Applicants will be required to undergo a medical examination at a designated hospital before this stage.

Deadline for Application

No later than 17:00hrs on October 22, 2004
Late submission and incomplete application documents shall not be permitted.

Where to submit

Application forms and required documents must be submitted either personally, by mail, or courier to JICE JDS Project Office.

For further information, please contact:

JICE JDS Project Office in the Philippines
(Mon to Fri, 09:00 to 12:00, 13:30 to 16:30)
- Unit 2008, 88 Corporate Center, Valero corner Sedeno Streets, Salcedo Village, Makati City, Philippines
- TEL: 02-757-4990
- Official Web Site: http://www.jice.org/english/

Executing Agency

National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA- Special Committee on Scholarships)

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MARINE AND ENGINEER SUPERINTENDENTS

(1 POSITION EACH)

Objective – *to achieve technically sound, professionally competent, safe, clean and competitive vessel operation, providing the best cargo care every single day of the year.*

The position will involve the standard superintendency role in handling 8-10 vessels with Philippine crew sailing in regional and liner trades as well as worldwide dry bulk trades.

The successful candidate will be a minimum of 30 years old with relevant superintendent experience and will be enthusiastic about working in Thailand on a single posting status.

Salary/Benefit Package will be commensurate with experience and qualifications.

For further details please contact:
Mr. Clinton De Souza
E-Mail: ades@thoresen.com

Send application with CV and recent photograph to:
Thoresen & Co., (Bangkok) Ltd.
Attn: Mr. Pongsak Kanchanakpan
General Manager, Group Personnel and Administration
GPO Box 1587, Bangkok 10501, Thailand
Tel: +66 2 250-0569 Fax: +66 2 655-3906

Manila Representative Office:
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Makati City 1200
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Fax: (632) 8969004 / 8969006

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for immediate hiring

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

18-40 years old / male or female; pleasing personality. At least 1-year related work experience, good communication skills, hardworking, confident and self-motivated, full time / freelance

MEGAPIXELS DIGITAL STUDIO

send resumé to Unit 204 JL Domingo Bldg., 10 Marcos Highway, Barangay Mayamot, Antipolo City. Tel 6451848 Telefax 6457165 or email: ftflores@modeglobal.com

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FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING!!!

SALES & MARKETING OFFICER

LIAISON OFFICER
(must know how to drive motocycle)

RESERVATION OFFICER
(with knowledge in Abacus & Amadeus)

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
(computer literate; preferably accounting grad)

BOOKKEEPER

Email resumé at eztravel_plus@yahoo.com
or mail to EZ TRAVEL PLUS CORP.
2G San Antonio Bldg., No. 1 Corumi St.
cor. Del Monte Ave., Quezon City

JOBMarket ONLINE VISIT US AT www.jobmarketonline.com

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Cebu
e-Office One, AsiaTown IT Park,
Apas, Lahug, Cebu City
or call
our Cebu HR hotline at
(032) 234-8247
or email your resume to
cebu@peoplesupport.com

Davao
The Royal Mandaya Hotel,
Maharlika Function Room,
J. Palma Gil Street, Davao City
or email your resume to
davao@peoplesupport.com

Email your resumé to
manilajobs@peoplesupport.com
for the following positions:

- Training Manager of Client Specific Services
  - 5+ years training experience on software, customer service skills, sales skills, and/or management training skills training, experience in managing teams and project management.
- Reporting Analyst
- Communication Trainers
  - Masters degree in Teaching English as a Second Language preferred.
- Quality Assurance Manager
- Financial Reporting Analysis Manager
- Systems Accountant

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or send your resumé to
stcjobs@peoplesupport.com
STC HR Hotline (02) 755-2672

GREAT JOBS FOR A GREAT TEAM!
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Q.A. AUDITORS

- Male/Female, 22-27 years old; Graduates of B.S. ME, EE, ChE or IE.
- Experience not required but knowledge and exposure on ISO systems, quality inspections, SPC, dimensional measurements, etc. is a definite advantage.
- Will conduct process and product audits, perform process and equipment validations and certifications, assist in setting-up OPCR systems, SPC, and quality control points.
- Willing to be assigned in Sta. Maria, Bulacan.

1. PRODUCT ENGINEERS
2. PRODUCT DESIGN ENGINEERS
3. DRAFTSMEN

- Male, 21-35 years old; Graduates of Mechanical Engineering.
- Experience not required but must possess potentials for the job. Must have exposure on AutoCAD, design and 3D modeling.
- With good communication and leadership skills.
- Willing to be based in Bulacan.

1. ENVIRONMENTAL FACILITIES ENGINEER
2. ENVIRONMENTAL CHEMIST

- Male, 21-30 years old; Graduate of either Mechanical or Chemical Engineering/ Chemistry.
- With experience in Wastewater Treatment Plant Operations and Pollution Control.
- Flexible, fast learner and hands-on engineer.
- For Bulacan assignment.

CAD DESIGNERS

- Male, 22-28 years old; graduate of B.S. Mechanical Engineering (licensed).
- Well-verse in AUTOCADD and other equivalent design software.

CNC SPECIALISTS/OPERATORS

- Male, 19-28 years old; graduate of Technical course.
- With basic knowledge/training in CNC Milling Operations.

MACHINE ASSEMBLERS

- Male, 25-35 years old; graduate of Technical course.
- Must be experienced in machine wiring.

LOGISTICS SUPERVISOR

- Male/Female; Graduate of any Engineering course.
- Must have at least 3 years related work experience as a Logistics or Production Planning Supervisor in a manufacturing environment.
- With good scholastic records, leadership and communication skills.
- Willing to be based in Marilao, Bulacan.

COST ACCOUNTANT /ACCOUNTANT (CPA)

- Male/Female, 23-35 years old; must be a Certified Public Accountant (CPA).
- Must have at least 1 year hands-on experience as Accountant/Accounting Assistant, preferably with a background on Cost Accounting.
- With good scholastic records and presentation skills.

O.D. CONSULTANT/RETAINER

- Male/Female, 40-55 years old; with Masteral education preferably on HRM or MIR.
- Must have at least 10 years OD-related experience and training.
- With good coordination and communication skills.

WE OFFER ATTRACTIVE COMPENSATION & BENEFITS PACKAGE.

THESE ARE ALL **URGENT** REQUIREMENTS. ALL QUALIFIED APPLICANTS ARE REQUESTED TO APPLY PERSONALLY WITH THEIR RESUME, 2x2 PICTURE AND T.O.R. TO:

CORPORATE RECRUITMENT SECTION (BATTERY GROUP)
80-82 Roces Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
E-mail Address: ebmuscat@motolite.com

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Ambergris Solutions has just added two exciting new clients! The first is the leading manufacturer of computer and console games, and the second is one of the most exciting manufacturers of gaming consoles and console games. Do you have what it takes? Come find out.

We warmly invite everyone to come explore opportunities with us. Experience in Sales, Customer Service, Technical Support, Financial Services is an advantage.

- TEAM CAPTAINS
- TECHNICAL SUPPORT REPRESENTATIVES
- CUSTOMER INTERACTION ASSOCIATES
- INBOUND SALES ASSOCIATES
- QUALITY ASSURANCE MANAGER
- TRAINING MANAGER
- SPEECH TRAINERS
- FRONT DESK ASSOCIATES

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Chief Operating Officer

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J-SYS Philippines

J-SYS Philippines Inc., a wholly- owned subsidiary of JGC Information Systems Co., Ltd. based in Yokohama, Japan, engaged in the design and installation of computer integrated manufacturing (CIM) systems, project management systems (PMS), engineering process control systems (ES) and development of applications software related with ORACLE DB, announces the recruitment of

15 PROGRAMMERS

Qualifications:

- Male or female, 24-30 years old
- Graduates of 4-5 years BS courses or 2-year vocational courses
- Has at least three (3) solid years of work experience in programming and/or application development of business related solutions
- Proficient in database management and other programming languages (actual experience in JAVA, VISUAL BASIC, C++, is an advantage)
- Has good understanding of programming and other IT solutions
- With good analytical and creative skills
- Has strong will to master the Japanese Language (Nihongo)
- Good in oral and written communications
- A self-starter and team player with good inter-personal skills
- Willing to be assigned overseas on long-term project execution

15 PROGRAMMER-TRAINEES

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Qualifications:

- Male or female
- 20 - 24 years old
- Graduates or graduating from any 4-5-year BS courses or 2-year vocational courses
- Belongs to upper 20% of the graduating class
- Has good inter-personal and communication skills
- With good analytical and creative skills
- Has strong will to master the Japanese Language (Nihongo)
- A self-starter and a team player

All successful candidates will be further trained in the Philippines on the latest software and programming technology as well as undergo intensive course on the Japanese language (Nihongo) to work effectively in both English and Japanese programming environments. May be assigned to work on short to long-term global projects

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September 21 to 22, 2004 (0900H to 1800H)
Hotel Inter-Continental Manila, Ayala Center, Makati City

Or send them to:

The Vice-President – Administration
J-SYS PHILIPPINES, INC.
P.O. Box No. 132, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City 1780
Email address: hrd@jpi.com.ph

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Java&Oracle

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If you are thinking of transitioning into IT, or if you are already in IT and are looking at enhancing your job prospects, Java and Oracle are clearly your best options.

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At PX1, we understand that most newcomers are faced with the dilemma of not being able to get a job without experience and not being able to get experience without a job. That is why we have partnered with the most reputable names in the industry to bring you project-based training programs that will put you in good stead when you start applying for a job.

To help you get started, PX1 is offering scholarships on its **Oracle DBA** and **Java Enterprise Developer** programs. 15% to 100% grants are given to qualified candidates who will pass a written exam and an interview.

APPLY NOW!

Applications will be accepted until
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Paseo de Roxas cor. Perea St.
Legaspi Village, Makati City

ORTIGAS : 689-1189
G/F Greenrich Mansion
Lourdes St. cor. Pearl Drive
Ortigas Center, Pasig City

ALABANG : 775-7001
2/F Doña Marta Building
Alabang-Zapote Road
Alabang, Muntinlupa City

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inSync
Institutional Synergy, Inc.

EXECUTIVE SEARCH SERVICES

Our client is a long-established international non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of children living in dire poverty. In line with their continuous commitment to enhance the services that they provide, they invite highly qualified individuals, imbued with a strong sense of altruism and desire to help the needy, to apply for the following positions:

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

·Must have an MBA or a Masteral degree in Social Work or related degree, with a minimum of 5 year's experience working for an NGO in a senior management role. Should have the charisma and leadership skills to direct and manage the foundation towards the achievement of its goals.

PROGRAMS MANAGER

Must have a Masteral degree in Social Work and a minimum of 5 years' experience in field-based projects, preferably with children.

OPERATIONS MANAGER

Preferably an MBA, with 5 years' experience in a similar capacity, particularly in the area of operations, personnel management and administration, and procurement.

CUSTOMER RELATIONS MANAGER

Must have at least 5 year's relevant experience. With excellent communication skills and able to manage a team of field-based workers and coordinate information flows with a minimum lead-time between the US and the Philippines.

CHIEF ACCOUNTANT

CPA, with at least 5 years' experience in accounting and financial reporting, knowledge of taxation and preparation of statutory reports, and establishment of internal controls.

Since all positions will be based out of Manila ,i.e., in the southern Luzon area, candidates must be willing to relocate. Very good communication and interpersonal skills are additional requisites for all positions.

The company offers a very competitive compensation and benefits package. Qualified applicants may send their resumes, with contact numbers, current and expected pay, and a recent photograph, not later than September 24, 2004, to e-mail address: isi@insync.com.ph or to: Institutional Synergy, Inc., Unit 608, 6/F The Taipan Place, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. (*note: We will reply only to those considered for interview)*

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PHILIPPINE TOWNSHIPS INC., one of the nation's growing real-estate developers, known for its undertakings in Fort Bonifacio- ONE MCKINLEY PLACE AND FAIRWAYS TOWER and METROPOLITAN ATHLETIC CLUB is inviting dynamic, self-driven individuals who will form part of our high-performance team.

SALES MANAGER – (SM)

Male or Female at least 28-35 years old; graduate of any 4 year course from a reputable school; minimum 2 years supervisory or managerial experience with a proven track record in real estate business; shall be in-charge of initiating, planning, developing, coordinating and executing the sales and marketing opportunities; indirectly but ultimately responsible for the direction and coordination of the company's sales force and achievement of sales targets; must be goal oriented, ambitious and driven to achieve high-performance; strong leadership potential and must have a passion for excellence; good interpersonal,communication and presentation skills; adept in computer applications.

INVESTMENT CONSULTANTS (BROKERS) – (IC)

Male or Female; graduate of any 4 year course; experience in sales preferably from the same industry; will market and sell residential properties; willing to work long hours and do fieldwork; possesses excellent interpersonal and communication skills; must be flexible, aggressive, dynamic and a team-player; creative, proactive and enterprising.

IN HOUSE PROPERTY CONSULTANTS – (PC)

Male or Female; 23- 28 years old; graduate of any 4 year course; 2 years sales experience; will market and sell residential properties; sources, clients and follow up on sales inquiries; willing to work long hours and do fieldwork; possesses excellent interpersonal and communication skills; must be flexible, aggressive, dynamic and a team-player; creative, proactive and enterprising.

THESE ARE URGENT REQUIREMENTS: Respondents are requested to send their resume, transcript of records and recent 2 x 2 photo to the following addresses:

Via mail: (please indicate code on the envelop)
Philtown – HRD.
6/F RFM Corporation
corner Pioneer & Sheridan Sts.
Mandaluyong City

Via e-mail:
pti.hrd@philtown

*** We will respond to qualified candidates ONLY.**

"THIS MARK, I EARNED."

"IT WAS A CHALLENGE TO GET THIS MARK, BUT IT WAS WORTH IT.

It wasn't easy, but the pay-off was tremendous – a rewarding career with excellent growth opportunities, comprehensive training and mentoring programs, as well as a fun and casual work atmosphere where every idea is encouraged and each success is celebrated. Did I mention a very generous compensation and benefits package?

And oh! The thrill to be working with the industry's best...incomparable.

Perhaps it's the training or team culture or the knowledge that you work for the world's most awarded call center. But whatever it is, you'll get that feeling, you'll get that high when you have earned the e mark."

Industry-leading Employee Satisfaction Rating
Best in Class in People & Career Development with over 500 leaders & officers developed
Leader and Innovator in Compensation & Benefits
Truly a Great Place to Work

If you have what it takes to be part of our world class team, we welcome you to our Manila and Cebu hubs.

The challenge is open to all
Technical Support Representatives
Customer Service Associates
Inbound/Outbound Sales Associates
Team Leaders

We also extended the challenge to specialists and managers for:
Operations
IT
Finance
Corporate Human Resource
Corporate Foundation Training
Organizational Development
Procurementand Logistics
Corporate Security

We offer a relocation package to those willing to be re-assigned from Manila to Cebu and vice-versa.

etelecare
international

The world's most awarded and largest Asia-based call center

Four Easy Ways To Earn the e Mark:

- **Call** for an immediate phone interview —
  Manila: (02) 580-6530
  Cebu: (032) 415-8061 to 66
- **Visit** us for pre-employment screening —
  Eastwood Office: 20/F CyberOne Building,
  Eastwood City Bagumbayan,
  Quezon City
  Cebu Office: U-308 Keppel Building
  Samar Loop, Cebu City
- **E-mail** your resume to —
  Manila: recruiting@etelecare.com
  Cebu: ceburecruiting@etelecare.com
  or www.etelecare.com
- **Join** our Baguio campus talks —
  Sept 27: Baguio Colleges Foundation,
  AV Room, 8 am-12 nn
  Sept 28-29: St. Louis University,
  Auditorium, 8 am - 5 pm

APL Logistics

APL Logistics Phils. Inc.

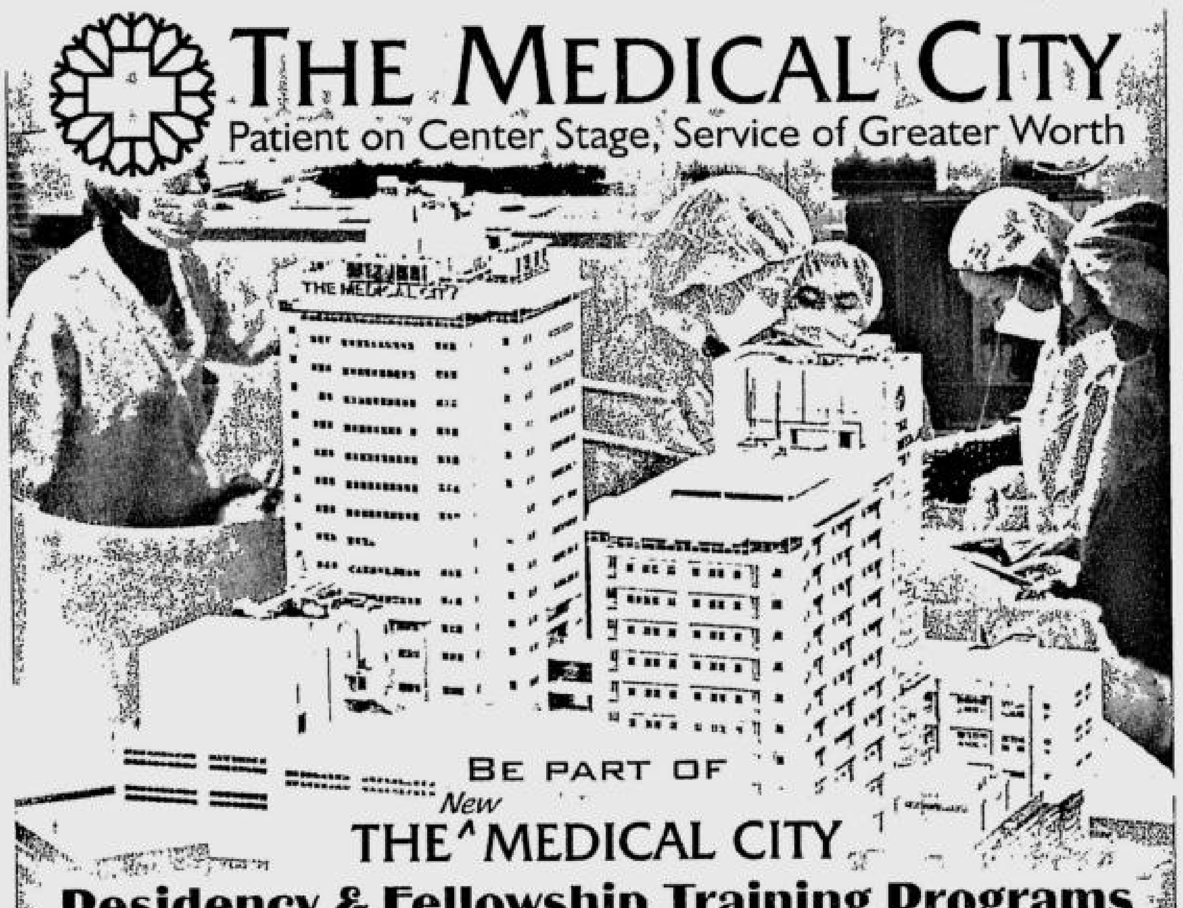
Seeks Top-Notch Candidates For:

Customer Support Representatives

- ☐ Graduates of Custom Administration or Business related course
- ☐ Licensed Customs Broker
- ☐ With above average intelligence
- ☐ With excellent oral and written communication
- ☐ With excellent interpersonal skills
- ☐ With Knowledge in computer operations
- ☐ With Knowledge in typing - min of 40 wpm
- ☐ With 2-3 years experience in shipping preferred

We offer above average compensation package and the opportunity to work with a highly professional organization.

Please send your complete resumé with photo and transcript of records to email address nenita_p_gudito@apl.com or to HR Department P.O. Box 788 CPO 1099 Manila not later than October 1, 2004.



Residency & Fellowship Training Programs

PRE-EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS:

1. Application Letter Addressed to the Department Chairpersons:

ANESTHESIOLOGY	Dr. Merle F. Dela Cruz-Odi
MEDICINE/CARDIOLOGY	Dr. Herminio J. Germar
OBSTETRICS & GYNECOLOGY/ULTRASOUND	Dr. Florante P. Gonzaga
OPHTHALMOLOGY	Dr. Corazon C. Estrella
ENT-HNS	Dr. Daniel M. Alonzo
PEDIATRICS	Dr. Elizabeth L. Palmero-Reyes
PSYCHIATRY	Dr. Cornelio G. Banaag
RADIOLOGY/CROSS SECTIONAL IMAGING	Dr. Jaime S. Samaniego
SURGERY	Dr. Cesar A. Millar

2. (2) 2X2 Colored I.D. picture red background
3. (2) Letters of Recommendation
4. Curriculum Vitae
5. Class Ranking
6. Transcript of Records (certified true copy)
7. Diploma (certified true copy)
8. Certificate of Internship (certified true copy)
9. Board Rating (photocopy)
10. PRC Card (photocopy)
11. Birth Certificate

Additional Requirements: (for Fellowship)

1. Certificate of Residency (certified true copy)
2. Diplomate Certificate

For further inquiries, please contact:
Medical Training Office (MTO)
At 635-6789 local 6273 and look for Ms. Frances
or e-mail us at: mto@medicalcity.com.ph

Send your resumé instantly. JOB Market www.jobmarketonline.com

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United Nations Population Fund

The Office of the Representative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Manila is seeking applications from competent candidates to fill the post of

IT LAN Manager

Duties and responsibilities:
Under the supervision of the UNFPA Representative, the LAN Manager is to provide daily technical support for users of information management, tools and technology infrastructure in the country office. More specifically, as part of the Country Office Team, the LAN Manager:

> Ensures compliance with corporate information management and technology standards, guidelines and procedures for the unit's technology environment; Supervises and trains the designated alternate technical support staff or line staff; Identifies and implements information management practices that enhances the Country Offices effectiveness; Manages problem solving and support for assistance for use of units technology and liaise with relevant vendors when backup is required; Installs and relocates hardware and coordinate equipment servicing; Collaborates with related units in the installation of commercial and in-house developed software and related upgrades and identify installation options specific to the Country Offices needs; Administers and monitors the units network to provide a stable and responsive environment; Maintains software and hardware applications for electronic messaging services and file services; Maintains Client /Server infrastructure within the Country Office; Maintains a disaster recovery plan for IT infrastructure; Helps the Administrative unit in developing IT training plans for the Country Office staff

Essential Specifications and Core Competencies:
Minimum academic degree: College Degree in Information Technology. 5 years or more of relevant, demonstrated professional experience in the IT industry. Possesses skill in the following areas: Systems Administration, Database design and development, Microsoft Office applications, Network and Hardware maintenance and troubleshooting. Ability to handle confidential information. Strong initiative, sound judgement, good interpersonal relationship in a context of multi-cultural setting.

Applicants are requested to send application letter indicating post title together with completed UN Personal History Form (P.11), available in www.unfpa.org.ph/jobs to:

The Country Representative, United Nations Population Fund, P.O. Box 7285, DAPO
1300 Domestic Road, Pasay City, Metro Manila or through email: officemail@unfpa.org.ph
Salary: Negotiable, based on experience and qualifications.

Deadline for submission of applications: 30 September 2004 (only short-listed applicants will be notified)
UNFPA is an equal opportunity employer and invites Filipino nationals to apply for the post

---

HONDA MOTOR WORLD, INC.

"Come ride with us"

one of the largest motorcycle dealership companies in the Philippines is in need of an

Area Manager

for Western Visayas who is:

1. a college graduate
2. with at least 5 years of marketing background
3. with at least 3 years of managerial experience
4. with a strong personality and leadership qualities

All interested applicants must be of good moral character. Please send your application letter, bio-data, transcript of records, and a recent colored 2 x 2 photo not later than September 30, 2004 to:

ANN B. CARTAGENAS
Personnel Manager
Honda Motor World, Inc.
M.C. Briones St., Highway
Mandaue City 6014
Cebu
(032) 346-0386

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A U.S. Non-Membership Warehouse Club Concept will be opening soon!

MEMBERSHIP

We will be holding a **JOB FAIR**
on Monday Sept. 20 thru Friday Sept. 24 '04 8:00am – 5:00pm
for the following positions:

- ➢ Stand-up Forklift Operator
- ➢ Merchandisers / Stockers
- ➢ Cashiers
- ➢ Accounts Payable Clerks
- ➢ Accounts Receivable Clerks

All applicants must apply in person. On the spot interviews. (Bring resume, 2x2 photo)

84 E. Rodriguez Jr., Ave., Libis (C-5), Quezon City (Beside Red Ribbon)

LICENSED ARCHITECT

Minimum five years experience in high-end projects. Proficiency in AutoCAD and computer rendering, architectural detailing, manual drafting, freehand drawing, model making. Excellent oral and written communication skills. Graduate from a top school preferred. Please fax Cover Letter and Resumé to 729-3285

A Leading Wellness Company is in need of

PHYSICAL THERAPISTS

- ➢ Graduate of reputable school
- ➢ Female, single
- ➢ Pleasing personality
- ➢ Not more than 30 years old

Please submit your resumé, together with your passport size Photo, Transcript of Records and Diploma in person or by Mail to:

Unit 728 Mega Plaza
ADB cor. Garnet Road, Ortigas, Pasig City
Tel. # 688-0105/ 687-2697

CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL
PHILIPPINES

Human Resources Manager

Conservation International-Philippines (CIP) seeks a Human Respurces Manager to address current staffing needs of the organization. This position is at a senior level and offers an exciting opportunity to make an impact on Filipino biodiversity conservation activities by ensuring that CIP has sound management and Human Resources support. The need for this position has arisen as a result of the recent change in structure of the CI-Philippines program. The HR Manager position exists to manage, refine, and implement the human resource (HR) process in the CIP branch office. This position also ensures that HR programs are developed and implemented effectively, and in compliance with local and global standards, policies and practices. This position will work with staff to synergize core organizational standards and local practices. S/he coordinates and ensures effective implementation and participation, provides guidance and counsel to management and staff on HR issues and high-level employee relations. This position also develops and oversees staff development training in concert with appropriate senior management staff:

Responsibilities:

- In consultation with appropriate senior management, develops position description questionnaire (PDQs) for staff and rates positions to ensure they are assigned to the appropriate pay band.
- Manages recruitment and hiring processes for new staff.
- Manages the development and implementation of the CI International compensation and classification program. Ensures local competitive compensation design and effective implementation.
- Develops, refines, implements and consults on local, competitive personnel policies and practices ensuring equity, objectivity and compliance in administration, interpretation and practice. Manages HR policy and practices and ensures equity.
- Ensures compliance of personnel policies with the Philippine labor code.
- Conducts training needs assessments and organizes training program for staff development for Philippine CBC staff.
- Ensures that annual performance appraisal are conducted and documented; ensures that annual deliverables for the Philippines program are completed and submitted according to HR guidelines and timelines, and that biannual deliverables are reviewed by appropriate managers with their staff.
- Assists the Executive Director and Senior Managers in developing employee performance improvement plans and termination proceedings if necessary.

Minimum Qualifications/Skills:

- Four-year degree in Human Resources, or related field.
- HR professional designation preferred but not required.
- At least 3 years experience in local and international HR development or management.
- Excellent communication skills both in English and Tagalog - oral, written and listening.
- Management ability to handle multiple projects, functions and initiatives.
- Ability to develop and implement strategic international HR initiatives.
- Skilled and knowledgeable in HR technical capacity – i.e., compensation and classification, international benefits, immigration, etc.
- Familiarity with the Philippine labor code and legal procedures.

Interested applicants may submit their application with comprehensive resumé not later than September 24, 2004 to:

The Country Executive Director
Conservation International-Philippines
#5 South Lawin, Philam Homes
Quezon City
or email: aespiritu@conservation.org

(No phone call. Only those short-listed will be notified)

PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER

East Avenue, Quezon City

is now accepting applications for
Academic Year 2005

FELLOWSHIP (with specific requirements)

I. Pediatric Cardiology

- ➢ 3 years Residency in General Pediatric accredited by PPS
- ➢ at least passed written examination for Diplomate in Pediatrics by the PPS

II. Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery

- ➢ 5 years Residency in General Surgery accredited by PCS
- ➢ must have passed certifying examination given by the PBS (Board eligible/Diplomate)
- ➢ at least qualified to take PBS certifying examination and the submission of satisfactory results of the in-service training examinations

III. Anesthesiology

- ➢ 3 years Residency in General Anesthesia accredited by PBA (Board eligible)
- ➢ pre-fellowship (except for graduates of the Philippine Heart Center Anesthesia Residency Program)

RESIDENCY (QUERT not required) fill-up application at DOH for matching (for Medical Board Passers)

I. Radiology
II. Nuclear Medicine
III. Biological and Clinical Laboratory (Pathology)

** Deadline for submission of application is on September 15, 2004*
** Academic Year 2005 starts on January 1, 2005*

General Requirements for Application for Fellowship & Residency:

1. Medical Diploma
2. Transcript of Records with the Weighted General Average
3. Itemized Board Rating
4. Three (3) Letters of Recommendation (coming from different Doctors specifically the Training Officer &/or Director of the previous training programs)
5. Four (4) pcs. 2"x2" picture colored
6. Certificate of Residency in required specialty
7. Specialty Board Certificate in required specialty

Please address your communications to:

JOSE A. YULDE, M.D.
Assistant Director
Office of Education and Research
Philippine Heart Center
East Avenue, Quezon City

For further inquiries, please contact Ms. Carmela M. Ocasion (cp# 0919-2885303) or Ms. Cleopatra Q. Palencia (cp# 0916-3021735) with Tel. Nos. 925-2401 locals 3234, 3235, 3236 & 3237 and Telefax 926-9622, or you can email to oer@phc.gov.ph

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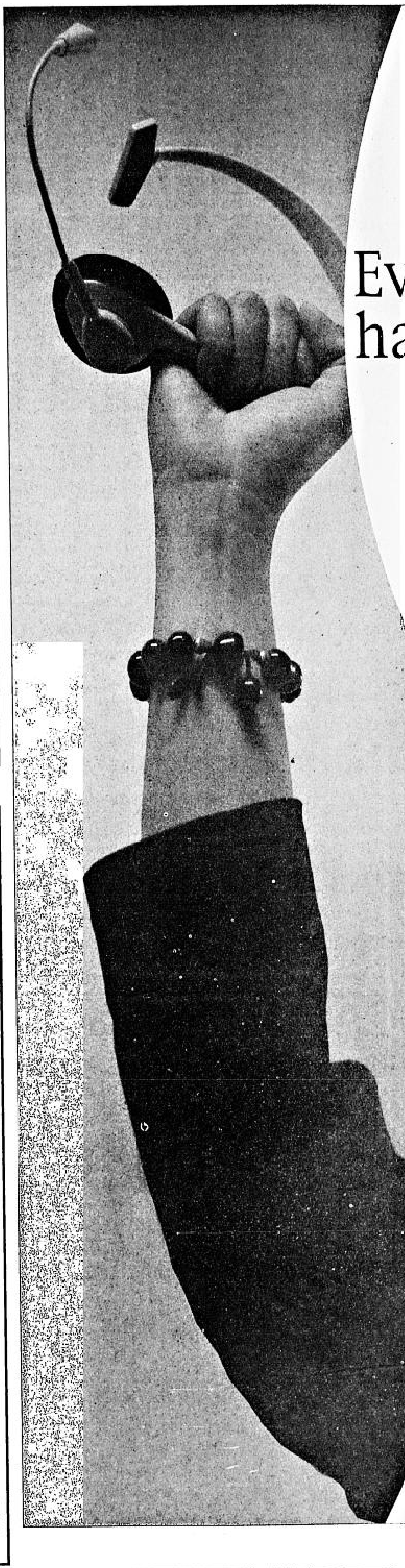
HYUNDAI ORTIGAS

IS IN NEED OF THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

1. **SALES MARKETING PROFESSIONALS** - Male/Female, fresh graduates or at least college level with pleasing personality, knowledge in driving & experience in sales is an advantage.
2. **ACCOUNTING CLERK** - Female/single, Business Administration graduate major in Accounting
3. **WARRANTY PROCESSOR** - Male/college graduate, at least 1 year experience.
4. **CUSTOMER RELATIONS OFFICER** - Female/college graduate, w/ pleasing personality.
5. **SERVICE ADVISOR** - Male/Female, college graduate, at least 1 year experience.

Please come in proper business attire, with your resumé, 2x2 ID picture, transcript of records to Ms. Au Cuneta at 500 EDSA corner Annapolis St., Greenhills, San Juan.

Applicants will be entertained Mon-Fri 9:00 am to 3:00 pm



Everyone has a voice.

At SITEL, we make it our business to listen.

Make yourself be heard. Join our team and jumpstart your career. We invite:

- **LEVEL 2 Customer Service Professionals (TECHNICAL SUPPORT)**
- **Customer Service Professionals (TECHNICAL SUPPORT)**
- **Customer Service Professionals (non-technical)**

Knowledgeable in Chinese language is an advantage.

Candidates for other key positions such as: Workforce Supervisors, Team Managers, Quality Assurance Professionals, Quality Assurance Supervisors, and Training Supervisors are also invited.

Absolutely No Training Bond.
No Non-compete Clause.
Premium Pay for Experience.
All the Opportunity to Gain.

Interested part-timers and students are also welcome to apply. We welcome partnerships with IT/Computer schools.

SITEL PHILIPPINES
25th Floor Cyber One Bldg. #11 Eastwood Ave.,
Eastwood City Cyber Park
E. Rodriguez, Jr. Ave., Quezon City.

E-mail: majenina.borlaza@sitel.com
Recruitment Hotline: 688-2404

SITEL
Unlock Your Customer Potential
www.sitel.com

Previous applicants need not apply.

Still the most fun you can have with your clothes on...

Multimedia Entertainment Organization has several "to die for" positions available

LICENSING EXECUTIVES/BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Young & mature-minded, 29-35 yrs. old, experienced in sales Production, Intellectual Properties and Franchise Selling. Graduate of Marketing or any business-related course. With at least 4 yrs exp. in Sales/ Marketing Account Management. Preferably with own car. Chinese speaking is an asset.

MARKETING ASSISTANTS / BRAND OFFICERS

Can write/do it all to assist in Marketing, Sales, Advertising, Promotions, public relations, research, copy/creative writing, etc. with minimum supervision. Must be a natural hyperactive human between 288 to 336 full moons, taller than 66 inches with 2 to 3 yrs working experience in a Marketing environment. Must love the GOOD LIFE. A real go-getter when it comes to work. In 7 simple words: JACK OF ALL TRADES, MASTER OF SOME

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT (International Operations)

Must have strong communication & interpersonal skills & desire to thrive in a fast paced environment. Can render decisions when necessary. Directly reporting to the President. Single female & a graduate from an exclusive school. Must be at least 5'5", between 25-30 years old with a fantastic personality. Detail oriented, self-starter. Can organize a heavy workload with constantly changing priorities under heavy deadlines. Free to travel here and abroad & willing to work long hours.

The pace is super-fast, the atmosphere ultra-positive and the rewards unlimited such as foreign travel. If you are ready for this opportunity and not afraid of things that "look like work" then send in your comprehensive resume & passport size photo to: emjrent@mozcom.com or mail to:

P.O. BOX 455 GREENHILLS 1502

WANTED:
VB PROGRAMMER

Our company is in need of:

1. Expert Visual Basic 6.0 and VB.Net programmer (must have at least 3 years experience in development and implementation).
2. Must have extensive knowledge in SQL Server 2000 Database Design and Implementation, Foxpro 2.6, Visual Foxpro 6.0, and Crystal Report 9 or 10.
3. Must have at least 3 years experience in system implementation and development using the above languages.
4. Knowledge in PHP, Flash, and Dreamweaver is a plus.
5. Must have knowledge in accounting processes.
6. Must be a team player.

Interested parties may contact:

Van Ryan Lee
Corinthian Commercial Corporation
T12 Sunvar Plaza Bldg., Amorsolo St., Makati City
816-13-84 / 817-82-11
or send your resume (in word format) to
vanryanlee@corinthiancommercial.com
(*Please include at least three character references*)

JOBMarket ONLINE
VISIT US AT www.jobmarketonline.com

The Perfect Career Choice.

NOW HIRING:

Technical Support Representative
Customer Service Representative w/ Financial Background
Team Leader/Coach
Quality Analyst
Telecommunications Supervisor
Telecommunications Engineer
Help Desk Engineer
Operations Manager
Data Network Engineer
Financial Trainer
Accounting Assistant
Data Network Administrator
Data Network Engineer
Payroll Assistant

JOBFAIR:

Mon to Fri (9am-3pm) Sept 20 -24
22/F Wynsum Corporate Plaza,
Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City

Bring your resume w/
2x2 picture, SSS & TIN nos.

CLIENTLOGIC
Philippines Inc.
Ortigas Center Baguio City

22/F Wynsum Corporate Plaza, Emerald Ave. Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1600
E-mail: recruitment@clientlogic.com.ph www.clientlogic.com

Our Company is looking for competent individuals who will fit the following positions:

AUDITING MANAGER

- He/She must be a graduate of BS Accountancy at least 30 years old with at least 5 years managerial experience in Auditing in a manufacturing/construction firm. Preferably with a background in Technical Audit
- He/She must possess strong leadership and interpersonal skills, good organizational and with excellent communication skills and
- He/She must be a compter literate

CHINESE TRANSLATORS

- He/She must be native speaker of Mandarin and preferably a national of the People's Republic of China
- He/She will be responsible for the translation of different documents and transactions of the Company from English to Chinese and vice-versa
- He/She will be tasked to prepare and coordinate necessary documents and requirements for the Company's various projects
- He/She must be trustworthy, assertive and responsible
- He/She must have excellent communication skills
- He/She mut be at least 27-35 years old
- College graduates with Bachelor's degree are preferred

Applicants may apply in person or send their resumé with 2x2 picture and Transcript of Records to:

The Human Resources Division
2/F Triumph Bldg., 1610 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City or
send e-mail to: hrdpgho@info.com.ph

Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement
Building rural capacities for sustainability

The Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement (PRRM) is a non-profit, non-governmental organization that draws on more than 50 years of experience in rural development. PRRM aims to enhance the capacities of rural communities in the planning, advocacy and implementation of sustainable development, through an integrated program of education, livelihood, health, habitat, environment and self-governance.

We are currently looking for competent individuals for the following positions

ENVIRONMMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST

- Must be a graduate of environmental or natural science, or any related course, must have had at least 3 years work experience on ENRM and must have good conceptual and analytical ability in environmental and natural resource assessment, impact assessment, technology and risk assessment and/or environmental management
- The ENRM Specialist establishes and maintains a working data/information base consisting of key macro ENRM indicators, conducts policy analysis and research, develops proposals and assists in the development of training modules

DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AND ADVOCACY SPECIALIST

- Must be a graduate of Political Science, Economics or Social Science course and must have had at least 3 years relevant work experience
- The DCA Specialist provides technical assistance in networking, coalition and advocacy work of PRRM at the global, national and local levels

RESOURCE ECONOMIST

- Must be a graduate of resource economics or development economics or any related field must have had at least 3 years relevant work experience and must have extensive knowledge of concepts, issues and strategies associated with the management and sustainable use of natural resources and sustainable area development
- The Resource Economist establishes and maintains data/information base, conducts policy analysis and research, develops project proposals, assists in the development of necessary training modules, provide necessary technical assistance to build the capacity of relevant PRRM national office units and branch/field offices and undertakes networking and advocacy activities

SECRETARY

- Must have had at least one year experience in secretarial work.
- Must hold a college degree

Please send your application letter and resumé on or before Sept 24, 2004 to

PRRM Human Resource Management and Development Unit
PRRM Building 56 Mother Ignacia Avenue cor Dr Lazcano St, Quezon City
Fax No (02) 3724995 OR e-mail to hrmd@prrm.org Website www.prrm.org

50 YEARS

Are you a successful property consultant looking for a new challenge?
Do you have excellent up-market connections?
Then you should contact us.

We are promoting high end properties at Australia's beautiful Gold Coast, the No. 1 real estate market for overseas buyers. If you became one of the two selected applicants, you will undergo training here & in Australia.

Sounds interesting?
Then call Mr. Michael Seher, our Managing Director, at
(02) 848.0659 / 0660

REAL ESTATE IN AUSTRALIA INFO CENTER
Ground Floor, 160 Fortune Bldg., Legaspi St., Makati City
Email: reiainfocenter@pldtdsl.net

FASHION INSTITUTE
of the Philippines

With enough skills, you don't have to work for somebody.

Learn the techniques of designing, cutting and making clothes: Gowns and Bridals, Children's & Menswear.

1 1/2 -month courses in
Fashion Drawing,
Pattern Making
Sewing
will give yourself a job and a good start in the fashion business.

Tel: 635-5383
Cell: 0919-488-0869
Cityland Shaw Tower
Shaw Blvd., Mand.
Beside Shangrila Plaza Mall

GERMAN - FILIPINO COMPANY NEEDS:

SECRETARY

- Female, 20-40 years old
- Computer literate
- Good communication skills
- Background in bookkeeping

Apply: MOTEX PHILIPPINES INC.
Rm. 412 West City Plaza
66 West Avenue, Quezon City
Tel. No. 3747885 / 3720222
Cellphone (0917) 8971588

ANIMATION, INC.

TOON CITY ANIMATION, INC.

is in search of qualified

PROJECT MANAGERS

Qualified individuals must have a College Degree, must be a computer literate and at least 5 years experience in Project Management and/or Project Scheduling.

Ideal candidates will be able to produce Master and Micro Schedules, keep projects on schedule, track production, prepare weekly status reports, establish priorities and communicate with the staff and our overseas clients.

Project Managers with extensive experience in fields such as Construction and Manufacturing are encouraged to apply.

Regular Employee Status, Health Insurance and compensation in the range of Php50,000 per month for qualified professionals.

Submit your Bio-Data on or before 24 September 2004 to:

TOON CITY ANIMATION INC.
c/o Ms. Jet B. Jhocson
2nd Level FMF Business Center, 126 Pioneer Street
Mandaluyong City

KUWAIT AIRWAYS

A prestigious airline **KUWAIT AIRWAYS CORPORATION** in Kuwait with **POEA Accre. No. 72147** is inviting applicants for the following position:

GROUND STEWARDESS

Minimum Qualifications;

- ☐ **Graduate category A or High School with (3) years experience**
- ☐ **Female; At least 5'2" in height**
- ☐ **Age 24-30 years old; Enthusiastic and with pleasing personality**
- ☐ **Fluency and proficiency in English language is a must; Knowledge of any other language will be an added advantage.**

Terms and conditions of employment to be discussed during interview. Please apply in person with pertinent credentials (i.e. comprehensive resume, passport copy, school records, employment/training certificates and 2pcs 2X2 colored photos)

EMC
EASTGATE MANPOWER CONSULTANTS, INC
3/F Rm. 301-302 Eastgate Centre Building
169 EDSA, Mandaluyong City (near Polymedic General Hospital)
Tel. # 533-8101 loc. 215 Email: emci_job@eastgategroup.com.ph

FOR MANPOWER POOLING ONLY NO FEES TO BE COLLECTED BEWARE OF ILLEGAL RECRUITERS
LICENSE NO. POEA-527-LB-042304-R

Habitat for Humanity® International – Asia Pacific Area Office
Building houses in partnership with God's people in need

The Asia Pacific Area Office of Habitat For Humanity® International a Christian, faith based International NGO, directing Habitat's house building program in 30 countries, seeks the following staff.

Regional Program Manager – Southeast Asia

This key position is responsible for the coordination of HFHI support for national organizations in East Timor, Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines. Expected to advise and influence national board members and staff to achieve strategic direction for national programs.

- Minimum 10 years experience in development work within SE Asia.
- Experience working in an international organization, preferably in an NGO.
- Ability to handle a diverse range of tasks and communicate effectively with all levels of staff from multi-cultural backgrounds.
- Good command in both written and spoken English.
- Position will be based in Manila, Philippines.
- Must be willing to travel 25% — 35% of the time.

Interested applicants are asked to submit their CV's to the address below before September 30th. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. For more information, visit our website at www.hfhap.org. Please reply by e-mail, fax or mail to the Human Resources Department at HR@hfhap.org Fax: 662 632-0445 or 632 897-3356 Phone: 662 632 0415-20 or 632 897-3356.

12th Floor, Unit A, PET Plans Tower, 444 EDSA, Guadalupe Viejo,
Makati City 1211, Philippines

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

"MEDICAL TECHNOLOGIST"

Key Results Area:

- Create and develop maximum sales in hospital laboratory through complete and aggressive coverage
- Explores business potentials for the company
- Develop and strengthen company's presence with existing and potential customers
- Able to build good and long term customer relationship fairly and profitably
- Pro-actively promotes the company's products and services

Qualifications:

- Male/Female
- Must be a B.S. Medical Technology graduate or any related course. Fresh graduates are also welcome.
- Excellent communication skills
- Must be aggressive and highly motivated
- Has a leadership quality, possess good judgment, excellent negotiation skills, and inter-personal skills and with pleasing personality
- Willing to do field work and to travel abroad

-Expect immediate interview-

GUILL-BERN CORPORATION
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- With Pleasing Personality, Hardworking and Trustworthy

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- Male, not more than 30 years old
- At least college level preferably college graduate
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- Willing to be assigned in different areas
- Hardworking, Trustworthy & can work under pressure

MANAGEMENT TRAINEES:

- Graduate of Business Course
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*If qualified, send your resumé to or apply in person at **Advance Credit Corporation** 23rd Flr., Tower I, The Enterprise Center, 6766 Ayala Ave. cor. Paseo de Roxas, Makati City. Look for Ms. Fe Jose or*

***Advance Credit Corporation** Melencio Ext'n. cor. 29th Street, Kapitan Pepe Subd., Cabanatuan City. Look for Ms. Marvic Calica*

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GLOBAL 9, INC.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
Municipal Development Fund Office
Local Government Finance and Development Project

The Local Government Finance and Development (LOGOFIND) Project is a government project under the Municipal Development Fund Office (MDFO) of the Department of Finance (DOF) is inviting interested applicants to fill the following positions:

CODE : PDET-I PROJECT DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANT

Qualifications:
- Must hold a bachelor's degree in Economics or any related field;
- Must have at least one (1) year experience in research and project development;
- Relevant experience in working with LGU-implemented projects is an advantage;
- Must be proficient in written and oral English;
- Must be computer literate;
- Must be willing to travel to remote places.

CODE : PAAT-I PROJECT APPRAISAL ASSISTANT

Qualifications:
- Must hold a bachelor's degree in Economics or any related field;
- Must have at least one (1) year experience in project preparation, evaluation and appraisal and project packaging for at least one year;
- Relevant experience in working with LGU-implemented projects is an advantage;
- Must be proficient in written and oral English;
- Must be computer literate;
- Must be willing to travel to remote places.

CODE : FMAT-I FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT ASSISTANT

Qualifications:
- Must be a Certified Public Accountant;
- Must have at least one (1) year experience in government accounting and procedures, knowledge on foreign financing institutions disbursement procedures is an advantage.
- Relevant experience in working with LGU-implemented projects is an advantage;
- Must be proficient in written and oral English;
- Must be computer literate;
- Must be willing to travel to remote places.

CODE : UPAE-I URBAN PLANNING ASSOCIATE

Qualifications:
- Must be a Licensed Architect or Engineer or any related field;
- Must have at least two (2) years experience in planning and project development;
- Relevant experience in working with LGU-implemented projects is an advantage;
- Must be proficient in written and oral English;
- Must be computer literate;
- Must be willing to travel to remote places.

CODE : TRE-I TRAINING ASSOCIATE

Qualifications:
- Must hold a bachelor's degree in Social Sciences;
- Must have at least two (2) years experience in preparation of training programs, particularly for LGUs;
- Relevant experience in working with LGU-implemented projects is an advantage;
- Must be proficient in written and oral English;
- Must be computer literate;
- Must be willing to travel to remote places.

CODE : ES-I ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALIST

Qualifications:
- Must hold a bachelor's degree in Environmental Science, Management, Planning, Engineering or any related field, Masteral Degree is an advantage;
- Must have at least five (5) years experience in preparation of environmental management plans, knowledgeable in environmental laws, regulations and guidelines;
- Relevant experience in working with LGU-implemented projects is an advantage;
- Must be proficient in written and oral English;
- Must be computer literate
- Must be willing to travel to remote places.

Interested applicants may send their letter of application, comprehensive resumé, transcript of records, and 2x2 picture on or before October 23, 2004 to:

CODE: ___________
THE PROJECT DIRECTOR
Local Government Finance and Development (LOGOFIND) Project
Municipal Development Fund Office
Department of Finance
Podium Level, Executive Tower Building
Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Complex
Roxas Boulevard, Manila

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The requirements of the candidate will be the following:

- Female, not more than 30 years old
- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in Business Studies/Administration/Management, or equivalent
- Pleasing personality
- Good communication and interpersonal skills
- Required language(s): English, Filipino
- Required Skill: MS Office
- Able to work with minimal supervision
- At least one year experience in Secretarial work or equivalent
- Fresh graduates are welcome to apply
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Please send or bring your bio-data with 2" x 2" ID picture to:

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MJG Holdings, Inc.
OKPHIL Building, 1301 Estrada St.
cor. Osmena Highway, Manila, Philippines
or send via e-mail to: **okphil@pworld.net.ph**

DOCUMENTATION ASSISTANT

Property Developer over 25 yrs. in business seeks Applicants with excellent writing skills, computer proficient,not more than 25 yrs. old, preferably graduate of A.B. English or Legal Management. Mail detailed bio-data, recent 2x2 photo, college transcript of records & other credentials to: Central P.O. Box 1937, 1259 Makati City

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FLEXO Manufacturing Corporation, a market leader in flexible packaging industry in the Philippines and in the Asia-Pacific region is urgently in need of qualified applicants for the following positions:

EXPORT DOCUMENTATION STAFF (For Caloocan Office)

- Graduate of Accountancy or Customs Administration
- With one (1) to two (2) years experience in export documentation
- Preferably with background in export procedures
- Can work well with all levels in the organization
- With good written and verbal communication skills
- Proficient in MS Office applications

3 ACCOUNTING ASSISTANTS (For Caloocan Office)

- Graduate of Business Administration major in Accounting
- With one (1) to two (2) years experience in general accounting, or cost accounting
- With background in audit
- Preferably CPA
- Can work well with all levels in the organization
- Proficient in MS Office applications

2 CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES (For Caloocan Office)

- Graduate of any Engineering or Marketing course
- With strong determination to succeed
- With good human relations skills and can work well even under pressure
- Good written and verbal communication skills
- Computer literate

PERSONNEL OFFICER (For Valenzuela Plant)

- Graduate of Bachelor of Science in Psychology or Behavioral Science courses
- At least one (1) year experience in the same capacity in a manufacturing environment
- Analytical and with strong leadership skills
- With strong human relations skills and can work well with all levels in the organization
- Good written and verbal communication skills
- Proficient in MS Office applications

INDUSTRIAL ENGINEER (For Valenzuela Plant)

- Graduate of Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering
- With at least two (2) years experience in the same capacity
- With hands on experience in the following key areas:
  - time and motion study
  - work measurement
  - production planning and control
- Hardworking and willing to work long hours
- Flexible and results oriented
- With good written and verbal communication skills
- Proficient in MS Office applications

LABORATORY TECHNICIAN (For Valenzuela Plant)

- Graduate of Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering
- With at least one (1) year experience as laboratory technician
- With good written and verbal communication skills
- Can work long hours and under pressure
- With keen attention to details
- Proficient in MS Office applications

Interested applicants may send their resumé with recent 2x2 ID picture and transcript of records to:

Flexo Manufacturing Corp.
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E-mail: hrmd@flexo.com.ph

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MARKETING MANAGER

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Interested applicants can submit their resumes at:
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Master's Degree in Business Administration, Commerce, Communication or Marketing, at least 5 years experience in managerial position; proven PR capabilities.

Qualified applicants may send their application letters, resumé, 2x2 picture and transcript of records on or before September 20, 2004 to:

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c/o AHRD, G/F DPRM Annex Bldg., Cp Crame, Q.C.
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- Graduate of at least a four-year course
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- Graduate of at least a four-year course or relevant work experience
- Operational experience in international air and/or sea freight forwarding (min. 1 year) preferably from a multinational freight forwarder
- Effective people management and leadership skills

Office Staff

- Operational experience in customer service, document processing and/or trucking coordination for air/sea shipments (min. 1 year) preferably from a multinational freight forwarder
- Knowledgeable in air and/or sea export procedures, and documentation

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Sto, Niño, 1700 Parañaque City
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LOOK FOR : MS. PATRICIA ANNE
CLIP THIS AD TO YOUR RESUME

Being prepared

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

SOME MEDIA offices are such hotbeds of intrigue that there is hardly any room left for trust, camaraderie and true friendship among coworkers. People there get so insecure about their positions that they're afraid to go on leave (or even to go on out-of-town assignments) lest they find themselves jobless upon their return. Covetous colleagues could usurp even their friends' thrones in the latter's absence, thus the running joke is *"Huwag kang mawawala nang matagal, baka pagbalik mo wala ka nang upuan!"* The workplace seems to be always one chair short, like that parlor game "Trip to Jerusalem"—ergo, the mad scramble to grab a seat.

Having worked in a couple of such places, I have learned the value of the scout's motto: "Be prepared." Be prepared to be fired, to be inched out by devious *intrigadores*, to be declared redundant, to be victimized by the machinations of the envious lot—in short, to lose your job.

There is always the possibility of losing your job, whether justly or unjustly, and being prepared for that eventuality can actually assure you that you'll never be jobless. Being prepared means polishing yourself to perfection. Updating and upgrading. Honing your skills nonstop. But most of all, remaining in touch with yourself, examining your values so that you never lose sight of your ultimate goal—the reason you are working in the first place. When you are prepared, no one can ever pull the rug from under your feet; you will never have to dig nor beg, because work—satisfying work—will always follow you. (*E-mail the author at* teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com)

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

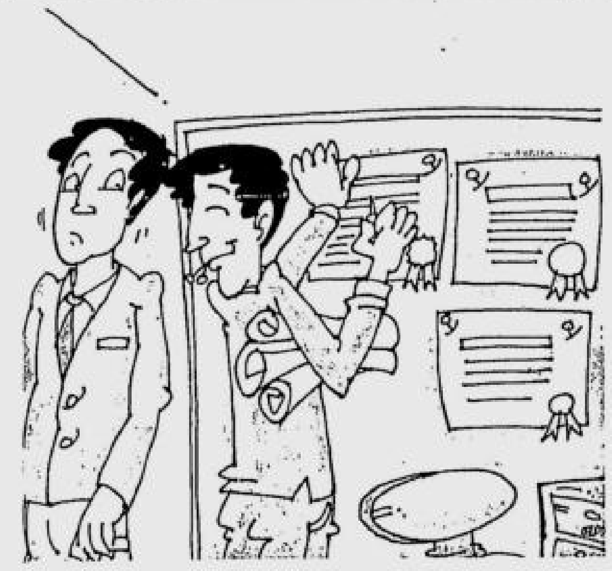

ILLUSTRATION BY ANTHONY MISTADES

Gospel: Lk. 16:1-3

The steward said to himself, "What shall I do, now that my master is taking the position of steward away from me? I am not strong enough to dig and I am ashamed to beg."

Crisis in work

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

JOB layoffs, terminations, company downsizing, and other related terms, mean essentially one thing—the worker involuntarily loses his job. There may be valid reasons, or perhaps unjust causes, or even illegal ways of terminating a worker from the company. What is important to ask is what happens then in the mind, heart, or the stomach of the worker who unexpectedly and suddenly becomes jobless? What could also be in the mind of the employer or manager who, for valid reasons and just causes, has to terminate a worker?

The reaction of a laid-off worker could vary from a silent but bitter acceptance of his sorry lot to a violent protestation and aggressive display of resentment and anger. The "steward" in today's Gospel shows us a glimpse of the anxieties, worries and the despair of one who loses his or her job. The employer, on the other hand, may feel relieved of a big problem by getting rid of the erring worker, or he might also feel sad and worried for a valuable worker whom he has to dismiss from the company for a just cause.

Both employer and worker would have to be prepared for such a crisis in the workplace. A very materialistic view of work by both—as a means of livelihood for the worker and his family or a source of profit for the employer—would certainly lead to evil and destructive results for both. A more human or even a spiritual perspective of work—one guided by faith in God—will guide everyone to a positive reaction and a solution to the crisis that is worthy of the human dignity. (*E-mail the author at* mfvg@skyinet.net)

How to answer frequently asked questions in job interviews

From page 12

est. I took the job in administration thinking that I would have a chance to be assigned to marketing, which is my career interest. When I inquired from the head of marketing of the possibility to transfer, I was told I would have to wait for a vacancy. He didn't know when such a vacancy would exist. The company was not creating positions."

Additional advice: if you were fired, be truthful and admit it. But avoid badmouthing your past company or past supervisor like in the following statement:

"Usually, I get along well with everyone, including and especially with superiors. In this particular case, my boss and I just didn't get along with each other. It's difficult for me to say why." You don't need to say anything more.

"What kind of a job are you looking for? Why?"

You must know what career is suited for you and determine if the job you are applying for is in that career. Research on the job position you are applying for. If you are a psychology or behavioral science graduate, you can give the following answer:

"The kind of job I am looking for is a staff position in training. I've always been interested in teaching and helping people learn. Initially, I can assist in making training plans for certain modules especially in the attitudinal and behavioral area because psychology is my field of specialization. I can do research on these topics. I can prepare interesting Powerpoint presentations on the module. As training staff, I can also assess the training needs of employees by administering questionnaires, conducting and facilitating focus group discussion, and evaluate the results of training. I developed these skills when I was a volunteer catechist in the Student Catholic Action for two years before I graduated from college."

"Why are you applying in our company? What do you know about our company?"

Research on the company you are applying to. Read and learn about it, know its products and services, look at its products, know its competitors and the industry it is in. Go online, look at the company's website. Also, interview an employee or past employee of the company. Ask if you can look at annual reports. Look at the Top 1000 Companies in the Philippines' publications, locate and read about the company.

When you do these, you can answer in the following manner:

"There are three reasons why I am applying in your company and, if given a chance, why I want to work in your company: First, I know your products (cite the specific products). I am using them, and I like them. Second, I have heard from my cousin who has been working in your company as sales representative for the past five years. She said she likes this company because of the way she is treated, the way her superior recognizes her contributions and that since she has worked in your company, she has already taken six training programs. She was the one who suggested that I apply to this company. Third, according to my cousin, there is a slow turnover of employees. All these speak well of your company."

"What was your most significant accomplishment in your last job position?"

Here, you may want to briefly mention the key achievements you enumerated in your resumé. Describe additional ones. The interviewer wants to know what makes you different from the other applicants, who can do the same kind of work as you do. Try to identify your style or manner in which you do your work that is distinctive and makes you different from others.

For example, you can say, "In my last job position, the achievement I feel proud of is that I always had a 100 percent attendance in the training programs I coordinated, from the start of the training up to the last day. I believe that this was a result of my constant follow up of participants and my good relationship with them."

Or you can say, "In my last position as a medical representative, I feel proud of my good relationship with my doctors such that not one of them ever switched from prescribing my products in favor of a competitive product."

(More interview tips on Oct. 3. Ms Santamaria is president of Career Systems Inc., a leading career development consultancy company. Send requests for career advice to car sys@qinet.net *or to* peopleat work@inquirer.com.ph.)

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Free Certification Clinic Schedule

	Duration	Speaker/ Organization	Presentation Title
DAY 1, 21 September 2004	9:30 – 11:00 AM	BMC Software Philippines, Inc.	
	11:00 – 11:45	IBM Philippines, Inc.	
	11:45 – 12:30 PM	Sybase Solutions, Inc.	"Sybase on RedHat Linux – Performance Without Compromise"
	12:00 – 1:00	*Lunch Break*	
	1:00 – 2:30	Microsoft Philippines, Inc.	
	2:30 – 3:15	Itpros.ph	
	3:15 – 4:00	ICDL	"ICDL Briefing for Training and Testing Centers"
	4:00 – 4:45	CompTIA	"CompTIA A+ Certification Clinic"
	4:45 – 5:30	Training Partners	"CISCO Career Certifications and Training"
DAY 2, 22 September 2004	9:30 – 11:00 AM	PLDT	"Delivering Cutting Edge Solutions"
	11:00 – 11:45	Mr. Raymund Ganotice, Education Services Manager, Sun Services Division Sun Microsystems, Inc.	"Java Certification Program"
		Ms. Corina Unson - President Ms. Weena de Vera - Consultant Hopkins Int'l Partners, Inc.	"English Language Proficiency - Certification for IT Professionals"
	11:45 – 12:30 PM	Phoenix One	"Certification with RedHat"
	12:00 – 1:00	*Lunch Break*	
	1:00 – 3:00	Certification Mapping Workshop	**By invitation only*
	3:00 – 3:45	Thomson NetG	"Highly Effective Learning for Highly Effective Organizations"
	3:45 – 4:30	Meralco Foundation Institute	CISCO Certifications (CCNA) and Microsoft Certifications (MCSA and MCSE)
	4:30 – 5:15	Certrain	"Are you prepared for the Virtual Workplace?"

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- At least 23 years old, female. With experience. Graduate of business, accounting, or bookkeeping

Bring your resumé with a 2x2 colored photo and schedule for an interview at:

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146 Valero St., Salcedo Village
Tel: 894-5879 / 894-5877
Submit your resumés
Tuesdays to Saturdays 10:30 - 5:30 pm

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Male, Civil Engineer, must have 5 years experience in building construction. Experience in finishing works is an advantage. Can handle 2 or more projects. Must be resourceful and has the ability to work under pressure. Can estimate project requirements.

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Female, 22-28 years old, Accounting graduate, must have at least 2 years experience in general accounting. Computer literate. Resident of Quezon City is an advantage.

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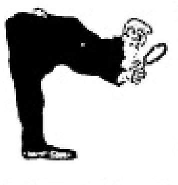

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Interested applicants are requested to submit their resumé with recent 2x2 photo and other related documents to:

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Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Contributing Editor Regina Galang Reyes

Unleash your creativity

BEST Attitudes

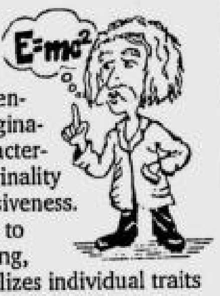
By Teresa Reyes Tunay
Illustration by Rolando Reyes

WHAT is creativity? In all of creation, only man has creativity. Even the most intelligent of animals cannot be called "creative."

1

2 The dictionary says to create means: to cause to exist, to bring into being, to originate, to give rise to, to bring about, or to produce.

3 A creative product of human invention or imagination is characterized by originality and expressiveness. As opposed to mere copying, creating utilizes individual traits to bring about something new. For the genius Einstein, to create means to evolve from one's thought or imagination.



4 Being creative means looking at the same thing that everybody sees but seeing something different in it. The more creative the person, the more unique his or her way of seeing things will be, because creativity involves observation and memory. We perceive the value of things according to the knowledge our experience has given us.

5 Creativity is the ability to see existing objects or processes and to combine them in different ways for new purposes or for solving existing issues. For example, when the "tried and true" ways no longer work, we are compelled to use what is at hand (whether they are objects, methods, principles, concepts, whatever) and by combining them come up with an object or an idea that has never before existed.

6 When there's a product or behavior that people recognize as novel and find valuable in some way, society calls it "creative." It shows that the mind that generated the novel and useful idea has explored the interrelatedness of things and combined previously uncombined elements in order to come up with a solution to an everyday problem or challenge.

7 New concepts come from knowledge, but knowledge alone won't make a person creative. To be creative, you have to know what to do with your knowledge. The good news is: everybody can be creative. Creativity is not a monopoly of artists. Here are some ways to enhance your creativity:

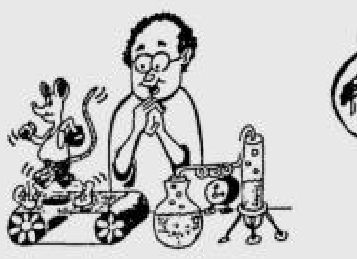
8 Make a habit of capturing your ideas. Ideas are fragile, like soap bubbles. Capturing means recording them while they're there, when they occur to you, or they will vanish. Have notepads and voice recorders handy for this purpose.

9 Welcome challenges. When you've got a new idea or creation, deliberately expose yourself to others or to difficult problems; don't be afraid of criticism or defeat—many times, defeat acts as a spur to creative thinking, just as criticism polishes our work to perfection.

10 Once you have discovered your particular giftedness, broaden yourself through training and education to direct creativity. Training and education can make a critical difference in the creative process. Relevant training is one of the most powerful tools we can have for directing creativity.

HOW TO BE MORE CREATIVE WORKSHOP

11 Immerse yourself in stimuli whether you're at work and at play. Associate with people in your newfound field of creativity, surround yourself with their works, fill your senses with images of their creations, etc.



12 Experiment! "Go around" a situation in order to expand your points of view. Play with knowledge and experience. See crazy, foolish and impractical ideas as stepping-stones to practical new ideas. Occasionally challenge existing rules, formulate new ones.

13 Pay attention to the ideas constantly flowing in your head. We are often told to ignore these as "djstractions," but this may not always be good to do so. It is best to pay real close attention to this flow of ideas, and learn to pluck ideas that can prove useful in the creative process.

14 Forget about the myth that only people "in the creative department" can be creative. Everybody can dream or imagine—this is a simple though powerful reminder that this creative spring of constantly flowing ideas is present in everybody. Even if your job were just licking postage stamps at the post office, you, too, can be creative.

Know that creativity springs from one's acknowledgement of the spirit. We are not just mind and body—we have spirit, and it can be tapped in our work of creating. In fact, there would be no creation without it. And to cowork with that spirit we need to "connect" with it as often as possible; respect it, and it will work for us.

(How? But that's another story! If I get even two dozen e-mailed requests from identified readers—please write your name and address at least—I'll make it Part 2 of "Unleash your creativity." Send it to teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com.)

How to answer frequently asked questions in job interviews

By Josie O. Santamaria

(This is the continuation of Ms Santamaria's advice to Mr. D. on how to prepare for a job interview.)

HERE are some more questions frequently asked during job interviews and my suggested answers.

"What are your major weaknesses?"

This is a difficult question but it is always asked. When you tell a weakness, make sure you mention the strength connected with it or stress its positive aspect. You have limitations just like everyone else but show that you are open to feedback from others so that you constantly improve yourself and your work. For example, if you tell them about your temper and impatience with people who don't do their share of the work, or your tendency to procrastinate, you will be closing the door on yourself. Some ways to answer this question are:

ASK YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR

"I am impatient with people who don't perform a task according to standards and don't do their share of the work. This is why I take time to explain my expectations, get the commitment of the person for the performance and delivery of the task, follow through, and check if the task is being done according to my expectations."

"I don't like to be closely supervised because I exercise initiative in doing assigned tasks and I like to anticipate problems before they arise."

"I have problems coming to work on time because of the distance of my home to Makati. But I always make sure I don't go home in the evening until assigned tasks are done. This means I take shorter breaks and longer work hours. I also stay focused on the task."

"What is your career goal? What do you expect to be doing in five years? In 10 years?"

Because you are applying for a corporate job, whether in a private company or government agency, you must research on the career path of your job position. A career path may either be management or professional and technical. The management path is characterized by steady increase in responsibility and authority over people, budget and other resources. A professional or technical path is characterized by increasing use of knowledge and skills in a functional area to solve problems and develop products and services.

Some sample answers to this question:

"In five years, I see myself having expertise in compensation and benefits and having supervision over a staff doing this for the organization. In 10 years, I see myself as the head of the HR department having supervision over various HR functions and reporting directly to the head of the organization."

"Why are you leaving your present company? Or why did you leave your last job?"

If you lost your job because of company closure, relocation of function, mergers and restructuring, and the like, this question is easy to answer. If you resigned or were fired, be truthful but do not say anything negative about the company you left. If you had resigned, you can talk about the lack of potential for upward mobility, that your job responsibilities have changed so that you no longer enjoy what you're doing. You can also state your need to reduce travel time, your need for a more challenging job, or anything that does not make you sound a "problem employee" or that does not make your former employer look like a bad employer. If you can't say anything positive about your former employer, don't say anything negative. It will not speak well of you.

An example of this technique is:

"The reason I am leaving the company is because the nature of the work is not anymore suited to my career inter-

HOWTO/P.10

What's inside

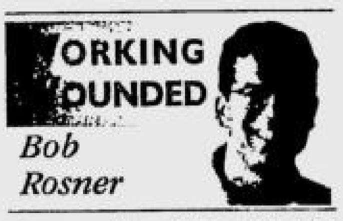
HR Focus: *Pamela Wu of eTelecare* *p. 13*

Reflections for the Working Soul *p. 10*

What can you do to increase the odds of success when you're just starting out?

DEAR WW: I'm going to graduate from college this spring and I'm starting to look for a job. I know what it takes to be successful at school, any advice on what I'll need to know to be a success at work?

The Graduate



WORKING WOUNDED
Bob Rosner

Let's start with a quiz. Remember when you studied Darwin in your biology class? Which answer best sums up Darwin's theory?

a. Only the fittest survive
b. Only the strongest survive
c. Only the smartest survive
d. Only the most adaptable survive

According to one Darwin expert, being fit, smart and strong all matter, but the species that thrive are the ones that are the most adaptable. It's no different at work. The following tips will help. Also check out "The Complete Idiot's Guide to Cultural Etiquette" (Alpha, 1999).

Can you be on time? No one cared if you got to class 15 minutes late. But your coworkers will care a lot if you show up late for meetings. So give yourself plenty of time to get where you need to go, call ahead if you're running late, and if morning meetings are a problem—get more sleep.

Can you dress appropriately? It's tough to give up jeans for a business suit. I learned how to deal with that from my friend Danny. Before Danny interviewed for his first "real" job, he cut his signature shoulder-length hair. Shocked, I asked him why. "Clothes, hair, they're just costumes," he said. "This is my current work costume."

Can you use proper business language? You know, there are a lot of people in business who won't appreciate it if you can't, like, make it through a sentence without, you know, using a lot of, like, vulgarity and even, like, slang. Make an effort to write and speak well and opportunity will come knocking at your door.

Are you discreet? Have you ever been burned by telling something to someone in confidence only to have them blab it all over? How inclined were you to share more secrets with this person? Honor people's confidences in you. Yes, there may be times when it will seem like violating a confidence can score you points, but over the long haul

WHAT/P.13

WORK
COLLEGE

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

Recruitment challenge is HR exec's adrenalin

By Candy G. Villanueva
Contributor

HR Focus

PAMELA Wu is a most valued employee at eTelecare. Perhaps because she was responsible for hiring the rest of the employees in the company. "I started out here as the very first employee, handling the position of recruiting manager. So I've seen the tremendous growth of the company and have grown along with it as well," she answers. But more than that, Wu is valued because of her contributions to the company's growth, which she was able to give because of her dedication, passion and lots of coffee.

As director for Corporate Human Resources of eTelecare, a contact center outsourcer, Wu handles recruitment which includes hiring and making sure the employees are happy and well taken cared of. The employees, being her valued customers, benefit from Wu's HR management system which includes compensation and benefits, employee relations and employee welfare. Taking seriously the concept of employees being customers, Wu adopts programs to address the needs of her charge which include an internal call center for the eTelecare people.

Early start

Wu prepared for her position with over 12 years of human resources management experience. Earning a degree in Psychology from the Ateneo de Manila University, Wu decided to embark on a career related to the art of human relations. Naturally, the choice was human resources. "There was no eureka moment for me when I decided I wanted to be an HR practitioner," she recalls.

After a short training stint at Edsa Shangri-La Hotel's HR division, she was immediately taken in by the Sycip, Gorres, Velayo and Co. HR division as personnel assistant. She moved back in at Edsa Shangri-La Hotel after a few years. "I was initially part of the recruitment team of Edsa Shangri-La Hotel. The hotel was in startup mode then and we were in charge of filling up its manpower requirements." It was then that she realized she craved for the fast-paced environment of the recruitment industry. For Wu, each day in HR brought a new set of unique challenges, which she thoroughly enjoyed.

New challenge

With eTelecare, Wu embraced a whole new challenge. Harnessing her experience from Edsa Shangri-La, Wu helped eTelecare establish a call center that is dedicated to quality people equipped with the best training, top-of-the-line facilities and a fully redundant network.

Being with the company in the early stages, Wu contributed to the making of the company's mission and vision and helped the company compose its strategic goals. "So far, it's been an exciting journey for me. I've matured both as an individual and as a professional. It gives me great satisfaction seeing eTelecare achieve its company mission and vision."

Creative workplace

Aside from recruitment, it is also Wu's responsibility to ensure loyalty by keeping the employees happy. "At eTelecare, we really believe in fun and camaraderie in the workplace. After all, how can you expect staff to stay long with a company if they dread coming to work everyday?" Many of Wu's employee projects ensure a creative and motivating work environment. Presently, employees enjoy the benefits of a game room, a quiet lounge and a 24/7 pantry. Wu is also planning on a day care center and a live band room.

Under Wu's supervision, the company regularly holds unique-themed events that are fun, nourishing and invigorating. In the office, people are sometimes treated to a massage day, a carnival day or an arcade day. Outside the office, Wu organizes parties and clubs that cater to the interests of the employees. To attend to their other needs, she designed and implemented an internal call center. Wu strives to cultivate a nurturing environment because "knowing that the company genuinely cares for its people is a great morale booster."

Empowering management

"I believe in empowerment," states Wu. She says she gives her staff a free hand to do things their way and just guides them towards achieving their goals. This way, she constantly challenges them to think and find better ways to accomplish their tasks.

PAMELA Wu RUDY ESPERAS

In the fast-paced environment of the call center industry, the self-confessed "Starbucks junkie" does not deal with the challenges of dealing with different kinds of people through caffeine-induced adrenaline alone. She uses something more subtle like sensitivity. "You need to know what people want and feel so you can find ways to respond to them. You need to be able to communicate well with different kinds of people at different levels." According to this HR Director, it is a tricky job because aside from struggling to be fair and objective, she needs to be able to balance the needs of the organization and the employees.

All these she takes in stride because the returns are priceless. "It's when people come up to you and say thank you, whether it's because you just offered them a job or helped them solve a problem. It's always good to know you've been able to help someone or make someone happy. I also derive satisfaction knowing that I help eTelecare value its employees."

Looking for your dream job?

JOIN "My Trabaho," a public service program to help people at work and jobseekers find their dream jobs.

Send a letter describing yourself, your strengths and weaknesses, and why you deserve to be selected as a beneficiary of this program, together with a biodata and one 1X1 photo through postal mail to **"My Trabaho at Job Market,"** Philippine Daily Inquirer Bldg., Chino Roces Ave. corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City. Or e-mail to **peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph.** You can also handcarry your letter and biodata to any of Inquirer's Classified Ads branch offices in Metro Manila.

On Sept. 22 and Dec. 22, the next batches (30 letters per batch) will be picked (by drawing at random the letters). These 30 letter senders will be invited to attend a two-day Career Planning Workshop for free to be conducted by Career Systems, Inc. From these 30 letter senders, 10 will be selected by career mentors to be given the following assistance: a) Weekly career coaching sessions good for two months by a trained and qualified career mentor; b) Two outfits suitable to the targeted job of the applicant; c) A makeover by a reputable grooming salon to prepare him or her for his or her first job interview; d) Free attendance in a two-day Resume Preparation/Interview Seminar; e) Cash of P5,000 to be used in going to interviews, making letters of application and resumés, photos and other expenses that will be incurred in their job hunt for two months. For more information, call (632) 897-8808 local 237.

What can you do ...

From page 12

you'll be better off being discreet.

Are you courteous, pleasant and positive? There's something to be said for being the kind of person that people want to work with. I'm not saying that you have to have a smile plastered on your face at all times, but being courteous, pleasant and positive will go a long way to keeping people on your side.

Are you concerned with others, not just yourself? Go out of your way to do a favor for people you work with and most of them will return the favor—and then some.

Don't monkey around, be adaptable and follow these tips and you'll prove Darwin right: you'll be the species that will thrive at work.

Here are the results from a recent workingwounded.com/ABCnews.com online ballot: What is the key to being successful at a new job?

—The fit survive, 1.4 percent

—The strong survive, 2 percent

—The smart survive, 7.9 percent

—The adaptable survive, 88.4 percent

(Mr. Rosner is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. E-mail him at bob@workingwounded.com.)

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INQUIRER
magazine
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE
September 19, 2004

This dusky songbird learned to sing in a church choir, and spent years playing second fiddle to mestiza leading ladies. Now, multi-talented TV host Toni Gonzaga, a winning combination of poise and wacky humor, is making her mark in showbiz by going against the flow

Toni Gonzaga
This Underdog Has Hit the Big Time

By Lorenzo Z. Mangulat
Photographs by Ernie U. Sarmiento

ALL at once, Toni Gonzaga is a walking package of contradictions.

Yes, she is this tall, lean, elegantly poised lady who exudes grace and sophistication, flashing a radiant, almost sensual smile capable of melting any guy's heart. Then, as if on cue, she suddenly breaks into a funky dance, flailing her arms and legs like a marionette without strings while bobbing her head wildly like the world's comeliest Bobblehead doll. "My relatives on my father's side are wacky people so I got it from them. It comes out naturally," says Toni.

Nope, 20-year-old Toni doesn't suffer from multi-personality disorder. In fact, these disparate sides of her are exactly what make her one of the most promising up-and-coming talents in the entertainment industry today.

To page 2

Still On Track Despite the Heartaches
by Maria Congeo S. Gomez, p.4

Bread and Circus
by Luis H. Francia, p.6

Doods, Where's My DVD?
by Tinna S. Bonifacio, p.6

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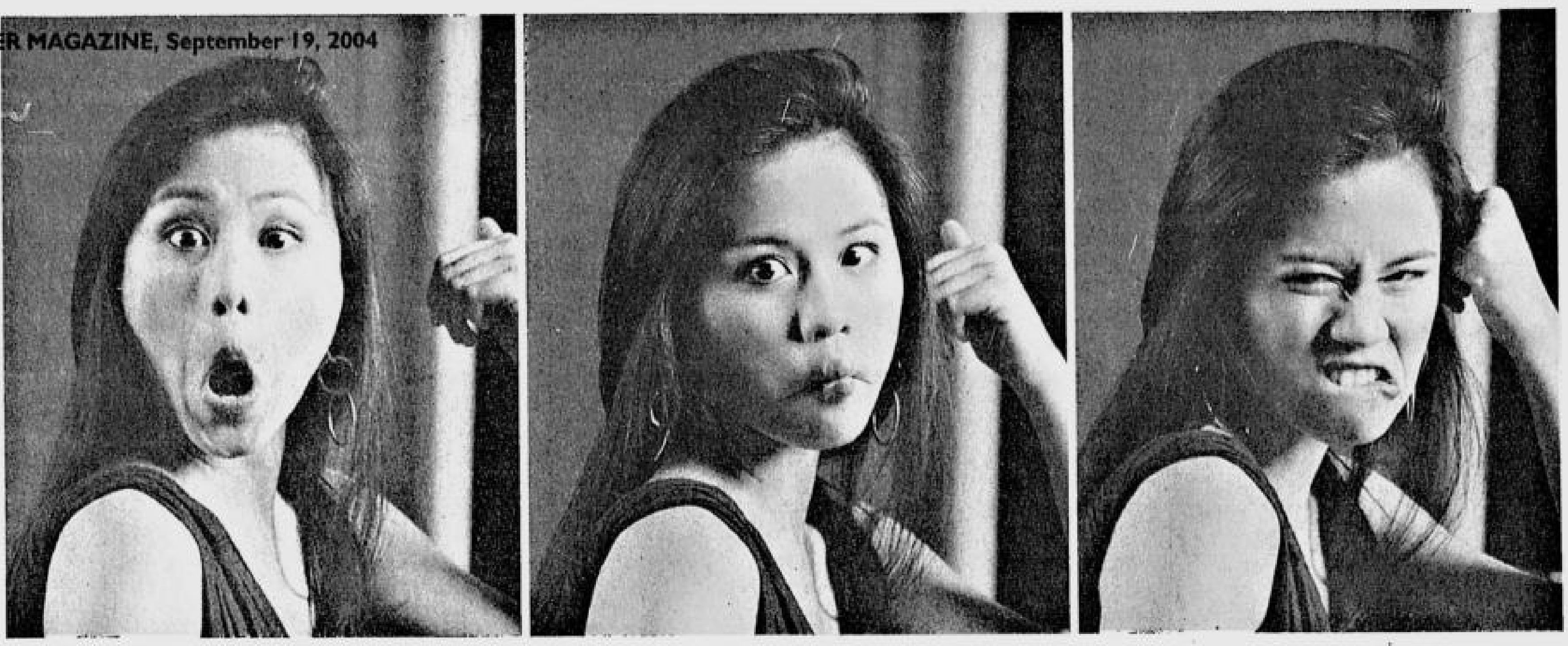


Multiple personalities in order: Mugging for the camera

Toni...*from page 1*

First, there's Toni's serious side: She makes for a reliable host, an alert talent who can deliver her lines fluently in both English and Filipino. It also helps that she's quite the looker, possessing a tantalizing set of eyes, perfect cheekbones, long, straight hair and broad shoulders. Yet as effective a host as she can be, Toni can just as seamlessly transform herself into a hyperactive comedienne, a pretty clown who can contort her face or execute a perfectly-timed pratfall *a la* Jim Carrey.

Small-town girl

Whether it's because of her effectiveness as a straight host or an attractive goofball, Toni's finally getting noticed, but it definitely didn't happen overnight for this small-town lass from Taytay, Rizal. In fact, it wasn't even hosting or acting that got her started in show business.

"I always wanted to be a singer," admits Toni, who once dreamt of becoming an international singer when she was as young as 4. Back then, she was already belting out tunes by Celine Dion, Frank Sinatra and Hall and Oates together with her father Carlito. Toni received no formal training and only harnessed her talent by singing in her church choir. "She was called the 'Lea Salonga' of the Methodist Church back then," Toni's mom, Pinty, proudly recalls.

Soon, Toni would be joining singing contests, though despite her brave attempts, she rarely won. But each tilt she joined was a step forward. In 1997, Toni, then 13, was fortunate enough to be the youngest finalist in the 1st Metro Pop Star Search. Although she didn't emerge victorious, she succeeded in catching the eye of talent scouts, who encouraged her to audition for commercials and television programs.

But again, it just didn't seem to be her time. Toni ended up going to several VTR sessions and auditions for TV shows, but could land only bit parts.

There was even one time, while playing the part of a production assistant or PA on a late night variety show, she accidentally wandered off into the set of another show that was being taped at the same station. A producer walking by promptly mistook her for an actual PA. "*Sinabi ko na lang na PA ako nung isang* show (I just told them that I was a PA of the other show)," the 5'5" Toni confesses.

Since she wasn't getting anywhere acting, she decided to focus on her true passion: music. Though she was just 17, Toni did the rounds as a lounge singer, performing at the Hyatt Regency, the Century Park Sheraton, Holiday Inn, Sulo Hotel and Casino Filipino.

This balancing act of aspiration wasn't easy as she was juggling work with school. Toni remembers the times when she arrived home in Taytay in the wee hours of the morning after work, dead-tired. "It was hard," Toni exclaims. "When I look back at all those years and I look at myself now, I see that everything paid off."

Off the fence

That payoff was triggered by her big break: landing the scene-stealing role of a clueless yet starstruck schoolgirl in the memorable soft drink commercial that had her blurt out that now-famous line "I love you, Piolo!"

A few months after that, Toni appeared in an episode of the GMA-7 sitcom "Daddy Di Do Du." During that particular episode, Toni played the role of a domestic helper's *balikbayan* daughter who came to visit the Philippines; Toni essayed the role by putting on an exaggerated American accent. People from TAPE, Inc., the show's production outfit, were suitably impressed by Toni's performance, and soon after she was invited to become a host on the popular noontime show "Eat Bulaga," where she has been a regular for more than two years now.

Along the way, Toni has been part of another sitcom and made guest appearances on a couple of teenybopper series. She's even done a movie with Fernando Poe Jr. and billiards icon Efren "Bata" Reyes.

Yet Toni seemed to just be on the fence as far as stardom was concerned. That is, until now, when she started hitting her stride. Now you can't throw a Sprite can without hitting a TV set that doesn't have Toni hamming it up on screen.

Apart from her ongoing "Eat Bulaga" stint, Toni can also be seen displaying her kooky side as one of the mainstays of Studio 23's primetime news gag show "Wazzup Wazzup." It's on "Wazzup" that Toni has effortlessly shown off her skills in reading the news with a hilarious combination of deadpan delivery and those off-the-wall dances that verge on being classified as seizures.

While she struggled early on her career to get noticed, Toni is now on the receiving end of numerous offers. This former reject is now actually rejecting offers. She's already turned down a couple of endorsement deals, the cover of a popular men's magazine (she was required to don a two-piece bikini, a no-no for her), a starring role in a telenovela and even an invitation to join two prestigious beauty contests. Now, she's in the running to play the eponymous lead character in a movie remake of the classic Filipino comic book superheroine Darna despite not auditioning for the said role.

Not bad for someone once mistaken for a PA.

"We're not trying to grab every opportunity," discloses Carlito, who now acts as Toni's road manager. "We're careful about choosing the right offer." Such discretion has already raised eyebrows from some. "One established artist even asked Toni, *'Bakit pinayagan ka mag-*showbiz *tapos* very cautious *ka naman at parang binabantayan ka lagi?'* (Why were you allowed to enter show business when you're too cautious and they always seem to be guarding you?)," Carlito says. "Toni's still young so we still have to guide her," shares Pinty, who serves as her daughter's business manager. "We see things differently. You can influence people, but it's hard. We will try not to compromise as much as possible," Carlito says. "To be honest, we want her to be a singer-host like Martin Nievera, but we'll see what show business will give us."

Finding her niche

Toni is all for finding that niche as well. "I don't want to be a jack of all trades, master of none. That's why I try to minimize. There are situations that I can't escape so I go, but I would rather focus and establish my career and choose the right projects," she explains.

"I just want to show people that being in show business doesn't mean you have to go with the flow. It doesn't mean when you're in this business, you have to give up values that you grew up with. It's an opportunity to show people that you can make a difference. You have a talent that God gave. Use it to inspire," remarks Toni. True to her word, Toni has remained a role model for young people. She neither smokes nor drinks nor does she have a night life, seriously. Very much the prototypical "good girl," she still goes home to Taytay every day and goes to church on Sundays religiously with her family. Every now and then, she even squeezes in the time to teach Sunday school at their church, something she has been doing long before she was on prime time.

Her suddenly stuffed schedule has taken a toll on her studies, however, as Toni was hard-pressed to maintain her grades and earn her degree at Dominican College. Her parents are already looking into the possibility of enrolling her at the Asian Institute of Distance Education.

But Toni really is a lot more normal than she might seem. During her increasingly rare free time, Toni usually just stays home and plays with the only other guy in her life aside from her dad: a golden retriever named Wuwu. Lately, she's been reading a lot, especially books by Dan Brown like "The Da Vinci Code" and "Deception Point" and playing video games on her Sony PlayStation 2.

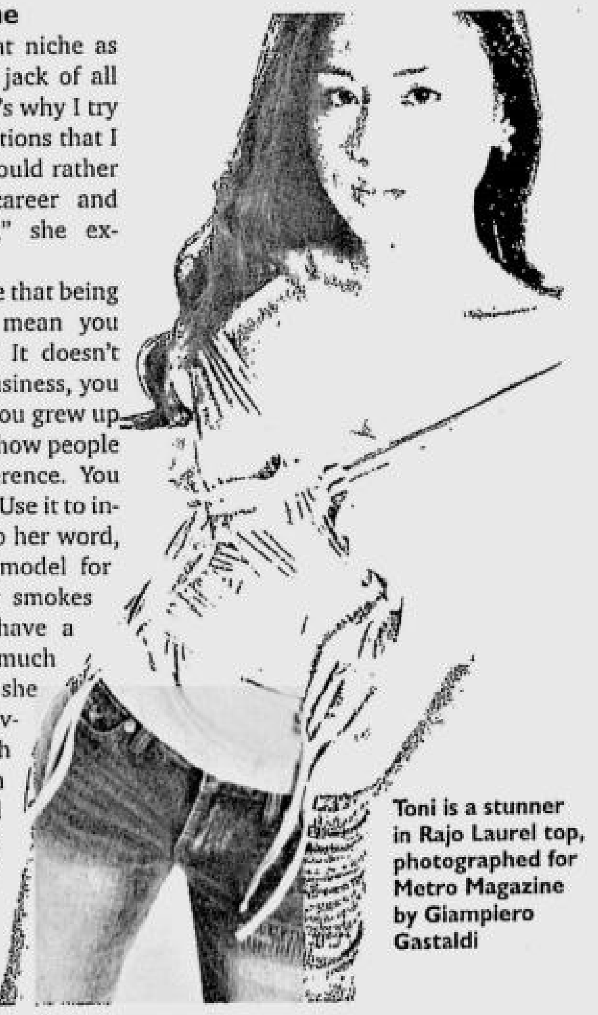
The eldest of two girls, Toni has also served as a Barangay Kagawad in Taytay's Barangay San Isidro for the past two years. "It runs in the blood. My late uncle and my dad were councilors so I grew up with the people in Taytay. I wasn't planning to run, but *na*-invite *ako* and I thought it was a good opportunity to serve my *kababayans*," says Toni.

Toni's fans need not be worried. She has no immediate plans to seek higher office. "Actually, last election they (her constituents) already invited me to run for councilor, but since my career has just been jumpstarted, I don't want to ruin everything *muna*. I want to take it one step at a time," she explains. As a Kagawad, Toni is in charge of health and sanitation in her barangay. This real-life role suits her as Toni acknowledges being obsessive-compulsive or, in her words, "Oc-Oc."

That "Oc-Oc" aspect shows up on a regular basis. She confesses that she won't sleep on a bed if the sheets have creases and takes extremely good care of her mane of healthy, shiny hair, as evidenced by the hair freshener and hair wax she brings along everywhere. "Don't mess with my hair, or else," she mockingly dares.

There seem to be less and less bad hair days for Toni these days as she's having the time of her life. "I'm enjoying myself and I'm thankful for all the blessings. I know that show biz isn't stable so I'm cherishing every moment," admits Toni Gonzaga, the underdog who did good, the backstage dreamer now on center stage, the "Wazzup" girl of the moment.

And in that, one can't find any contradictions. Q



Toni is a stunner in Rajo Laurel top, photographed for Metro Magazine by Giampiero Gastaldi

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PANCAKES AT LOBBY LOUNGE

Edsa Shangri-La, Manila's new Lobby Lounge features pancakes American style, thick and served flat or stacked up, topped with fresh fruits like bananas, mangoes, papaya, apples, blueberry and more until Sept. 30. For inquiries, call 633-8888 ext. 2738. *For more of This Week, see page 7*

Palakpakan

1.
Nakasugpong sa tadyang ng daigdig,
Puso ko siyang
Sinlaki ng kamao.
Kapag nakahingalay ang tibok,
Nakaririnig ang hinliliit,
Nagnanasa ang palasingsingan,
Nakaaamoy ang hinlalato,
Nakatatanaw ang hintuturo,
Nakahihipo ang hinlalaki.

2.
Umaalimpuyo sa anit ng sansinukob,
Utak ko siyang
Sinlago ng buhok.
Nang pag-aralin ang muwang,
Pinapungusan ninyo
Ng gupit-binata,
Ng gupit-sundalo,
Ng gupit-tripulante,
Ng kahit anong uso.

3.
Magpanggap man ang pasimuno
Na di manhid sa tibok at paglago,
Matitinag din pagkuyom ng puso.

Tanggal ang kalawang ng gunting,
Bulsa ng barbero ay may kalansing
Sa makahigpit sinturong pagsingil.

Paglampas-bewang ng muwang,
Inialingasngas ninyong pagsuway
Kaya't labag ang pusód at lugay.

Lumagutok ang gabel ng hukom,
Impunto ang palakpakan paghatol -
Masigabong ulo ko'y pinagulong.

Roberto Ofanda Umil

The Sunday Inquirer Magazine accepts contributions for our regular poetry section. Interested contributors should send a printed copy of the poem (which may be in English or Filipino) together with a self-addressed stamped envelope to Ruel S. De Vera, poetry editor, Sunday Inquirer Magazine, Chino Roces (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Mascardo and Yague Streets, Makati City 1263, or e-mail to <poetry_sim@inquirer.com.ph>

Home Away From Home

Happy OFWs on the new 1528 SMART Service

It's more than just innovative services...

Hong Kong-based OFW are absolutely delighted with 1528 SMART, and a new floodgate of communications and services has been opened for Filipino workers abroad. The new service, a product of the 3-way partnership between SMART, PLDT Global, and CSL Hong Kong Ltd sets a new standard in worldwide Filipino connectivity.

"Nakakagaan ng pakiramdamdam kahit pagod ako."

—Mary Ann Duyno (29, Married)

For hardworking OFWs in fast paced and demanding Hong Kong, the only real reward is getting to hear the voices and see the messages of their loved ones back home, especially their children. 1528 SMART gives them lower rates for calling and texting back home. How does this make them feel? "Masaya. Yan ang libangan ko dito. Yun pagod ko naalis pag nakausap ko sila, kahit konti lang ang panahon, nalalaman ko ang kalagayan nila," says Rosita Barrela, 39, married.

"Kasi produkto ng Pilipinas eh, SMART."

--Elma Llaguno (42Y, Separated with 4 kids)

The 1528 SMART slogan, "Pinoy para sa Pinoy" is invoked with pride by Hong Kong OFWs, eager for the homegrown triumph in telecommunications this new service is clearly becoming. "Tangkilikin natin ang sariling atin," says both Marivel Migrino 37, and Carmelita Garcia, 39, both married.

"Matipid, walang daya."

-- Brenda Flores (37, Married)

Aside from giving our OFWs lower rates, they also enjoy a better signal and according to them, a fairer accounting of their minutes. "Eksakto sa minuto," says Alicia Caab 41, Married. "Maganda ang reception niya kaysa (other carriers), mas mura pa...madaling magcontact sa SMART," adds Elma Llaguno.

"Nababawasan ang pagkahomesick ko."

-- Rowena Carino (24, Single)

The ultimate reward, of course is being connected with family and friends through 1528 SMART. We are well known for being a family-centered people and nothing is more wrenching than being dislocated from this warm center, having to work far away on foreign shores. 1528 SMART's lower rates and speedier connection are a real salve to homesick workers. It's a rush of mixed emotions, mostly happy. "Nami-miss, excited, malungkot," says Luz Perales, 27, Single.

Being an OFW can be a lonely experience but 1528 SMART can ease the yearning for home that much more.

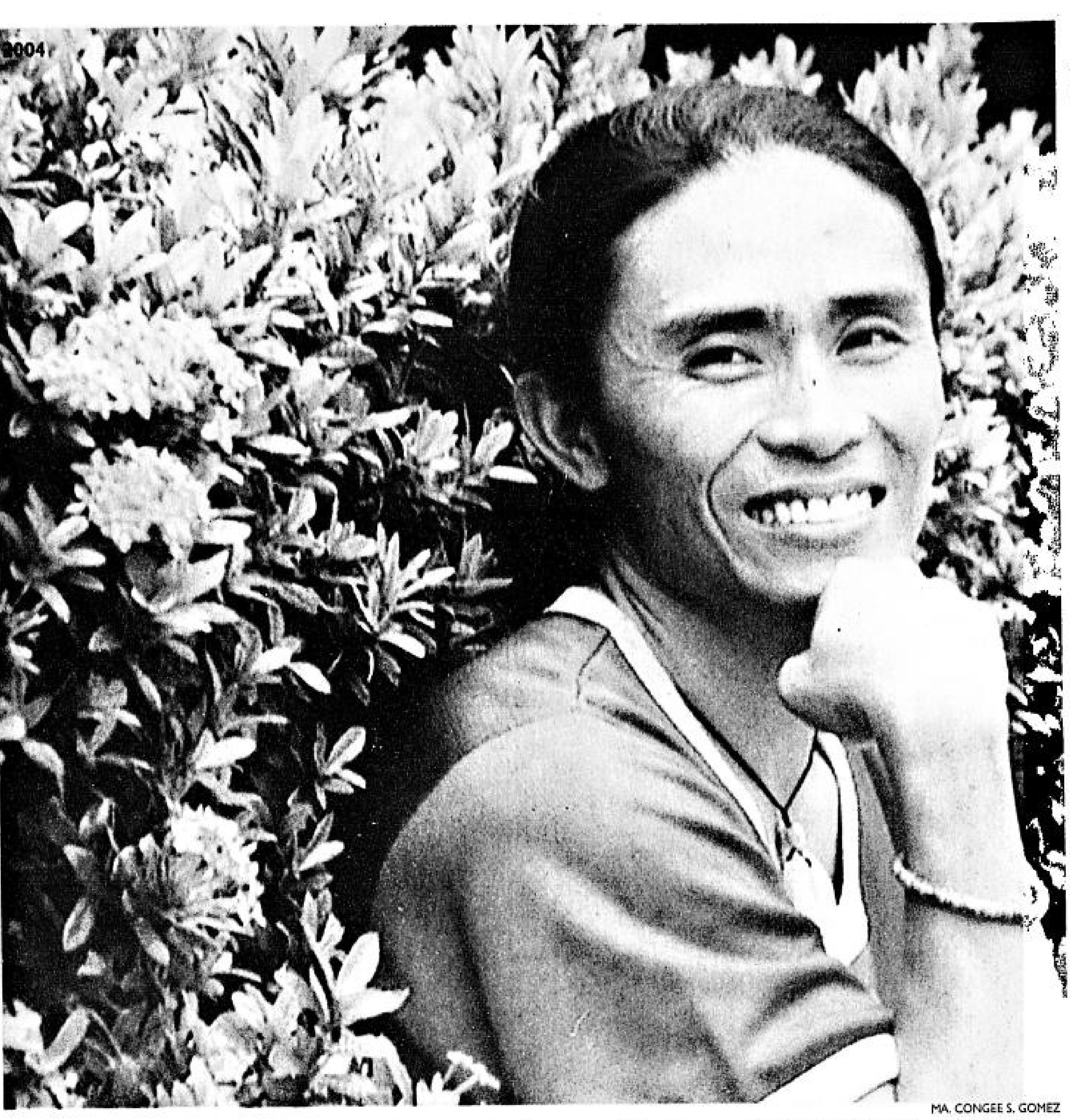
SMART
Simply Amazing!

It's about keeping families together whether here or abroad.

Twists of Fate

By Maria Congee S. Gomez

Still On Track, Despite the Heartaches



MA. CONGEE S. GOMEZ

TWO suggestions: Thin the eyebrows and no discussion of the past, if possible.

"The lead actress had too much artificial hair on her eyebrows, whereas mine is just average growth," says Nancy Navalta in Filipino. "Are they that thick?" she asks, briskly running her fingers over her brows.

Twenty-eight-year-old Navalta was referring to the recent TV program that featured her life story. She wasn't whining; on the contrary, she was thankful for the exposure; which came with a showcase of grocery items after the episode was aired. Her mom, Flora, who lives in Luna, La Union, tends the *sari-sari* store where the items went.

Dressed for the interview in a loose, knee-length maroon T-shirt, jeans and white baseball cap, Nancy declares, "This is what I wear as official coach of the track and field team of the University of Luzon. I have been coach here for close to nine years."

And who would not remember Nancy? She with the sterling performance of 11.42 seconds in the 100-meter dash and 24.05 seconds in the 200-meter dash in 1996? She, the touted reigning sprint queen, an Atlanta Olympics hopeful and one of Philippine sports history's most controversial figures, for whom rosy hopes were dashed by a series of medical investigations that questioned her true gender?

The next Sprint Queen

Even she could not believe how everything turned out. "I could have been the next sprint queen. I could have contributed to the country's harvest of medals, thereby making us all proud.

"But I do not want us to dig up the controversial past, because today and the future are my concerns."

Yes, Nancy lives in a different world now, though it's not too far from athletics. She describes it as more spacious, since she changed her address from Luna, 250 km north of Manila, to P. Burgos Street in Dagupan City. She is coach here to 25 university athletes, 16 males and nine females.

Although the city is her current address, she refuses to call it home. She still returns to Luna twice a month, specifically during paydays to hand-deliver the family's allowance.

After the medical findings were made final, Nancy immediately packed her bags and went back to Luna. She couldn't explain to family members what exactly went on, as she herself could barely grasp what the findings were all about. "No one even bothered to find out how I felt about the situation. The nation that feasted on me was in a mad scramble for the juicy parts, unmindful, perhaps, of the long term effects," Nancy says, refusing to elaborate.

> ***Almost a decade after the gender controversy that halted her promising track-and-field career, Nancy Navalta is still dreaming of medals, love and a better life***

But Nancy did not wallow in self-pity, as others assumed she did during the three-year self-imposed exile. She worked on some unfulfilled promises of local officials, who had committed the sun and the moon to her prior to the medical brouhaha. "I begged them for mercy to understand my predicament, but nothing came out of it. I was left on my own." Except for one politician named Justo Orros, Nancy claims the rest gave her the cold shoulder.

The Samson family, owners of the University of Luzon, came into the picture at the right time, when Nancy needed help. The family offered Nancy a full scholarship with free board and lodging so she could finish her course in BS Criminology. Thereafter, she was hired as head coach of the school's track-and-field team.

As coach of the track and field team, Nancy goes over the training programs of the athletes. She writes proposals to sports bodies for possible assistantships. She handles paper work and makes it a point to be up and about daily at 5 a.m. to monitor hour-long practice runs.

She occasionally joins the practice runs, but not as frequent, as the strides are largely a long distance runner's forte. "I can run five kilometers with the complete stretch work you expect from me, but without the speed," she says, attributing the limitation to a blood pressure that often shoots up these days. She popped a pill during the conversation, which she regularly takes to stabilize her blood pressure.

Practice and play

Discipline, humility and consistency—Nancy practices what she preaches. She neither smokes nor drink and abhors the ego-trippers among her wards. Nancy's long-standing affair with athletics is well-known, as she was joining volleyball games back in fourth grade. She shifted to track-and-field for the sheer fun of it when she beat Luna's hometown favorite.

When asked to comment if the Nancy Navalta everyone knows leads a rather boring life in Dagupan City, she reacts with a stern face, her prominent cheek bones showing all the more. "I occasionally go to the mall or I stay at the university. For relaxation, I stroll on the beach all by myself. The coastline is a special place, where I seek solace and self-cleansing," Nancy says.

The problem is, Nancy made a promise to herself that she would be the best coach this side of Northern Luzon. She wants to prove her detractors wrong. She wants the world to know how good she is through the harvest of medals the university continuously reaps. Ambitiously, she keeps an eye out for who among her wards will be a potential national athlete.

Yes, Nancy sorely misses the Rizal Memorial Complex, in particular the oval where most of her runs were held. The memories turn her misty-eyed, as she pictures herself waving the country's flag. "It's up to me to understand, right?" she asks wistfully.

Some time last year, Nancy filed for several advance salaries to finance the reconstruction of the family's kitchen area. These days, she takes it upon herself to rehabilitate a grandmother's wooden house which was destroyed by termites. The rehabilitation has cost Nancy P100,000, almost draining her savings.

On top of these, she sends three of her five siblings to school. She is second to the eldest and the family breadwinner, the only one after her father died of a liver ailment years before she graduated from college.

'"But I cannot be a coach all my life. I want to take up additional units in Physical Education so I can also teach PE subjects. I also want to take a crack at the Special Services Division of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, where I can work as a coach or as an athlete. I need a stable job aside from coaching to provide for the needs of my family."

Still dreaming

Nancy is also concerned about her hometown's community of stone pickers. She expressed the desire to protect her townsfolk from unfair transactions in stone picking. If it were up to her, she'd like to acquire a second-hand six-wheeler truck for them to use. That could cost her almost half a million pesos.

On her wish list are personal ventures, possibly a palay trading company and a small piggery. "We are very poor, which is why I keep dreaming," she adds.

At the moment, Nancy is not dating anyone. She admits to having a previous relationship with a co-athlete, which fizzled out when she began seriously coaching. She vehemently denies the rumor that she got married. She takes a deep breath, saying, "*Hindi ko alam 'yan, ah* (I haven't heard of that one)!"

No, Nancy wasn't pleased to hear the rumor. Her love life is a very personal matter as far as she is concerned, and to prove her point, she recites one of her favorite sayings: "Give your smile to everyone, but give your heart to only one." Whether she is a flowers-and-chocolates girl in terms of courtship preference will depend on the creativity of the man, she adds.

"Hopefully, I will have a relationship in the future. There are guys around interested in courting me. But since my coaching job precedes all other plans, that matter will have to take the backseat." She makes it clear, though, that she will make the time for the man she loves.

Asked if she is happy, Nancy bluntly replies, "Not so. I still haven't found the love of my life." Q

PDI PHOTO

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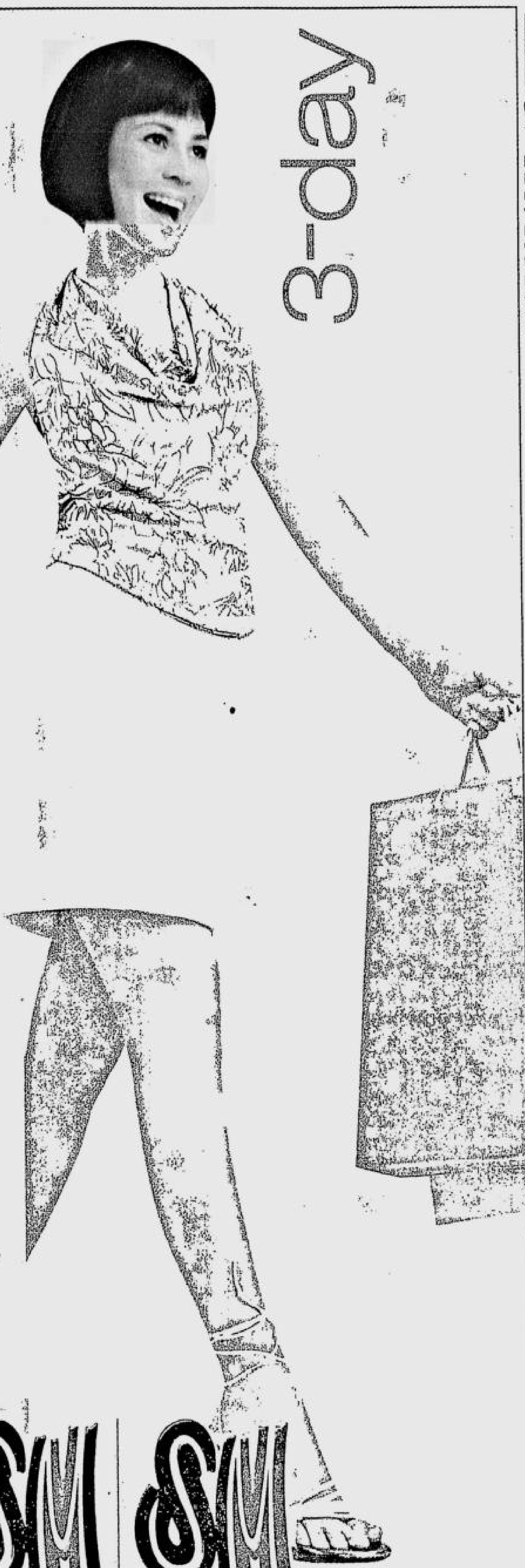
Sprint queen: Before medical findings questioned her gender, Navalta was touted as an Olympic hopeful

4 BIG REASONS TO SHOP AND SAVE THIS WEEKEND!

Not to miss is another exciting 3-DAY SALE event happening simultaneously at SM CITY STA. MESA, SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT, SM CITY DASMARIÑAS and SM CITY LUCENA on September 17, 18 and 19, 2004!

SHOP AS YOU SAVE on great selections from food to fashion over the weekend! Hard times may not be as bad after all as you still get to enjoy loads of discounts on groceries, personal care items, baby essentials, shoes, fashion wear, home furnishings and fixtures, novelties and more! So hurry and grab those items at really low, low prices! Plus, get a chance to own a SkyStar Scooter during the 3-DAY SALE LUCKY RAFFLE!

SALE SHOPPING starts from 10 am to 10 pm at SM City Sta. Mesa, SM Supercenter Sucat, SM City Dasmariñas and SM City Lucena.



Fri Sat Sun

Sept. 17 18 19

up to

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O

great selections mallwide

with every P500 single or accumulated purchase at SM Department Store/ SM Supermarket/ Super SM Hypermarket or at participating mall establishments

get a chance to **win** one of 5 scooters

SkyStar motorcycle and scooters

offer good at SM City Sta. Mesa, SM Supercenter Sucat and SM City Dasmariñas only

get a chance to **win** home appliances

LG Life's Good

offer good at SM City Lucena only

SM City STA. MESA

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT

SM City DASMARIÑAS

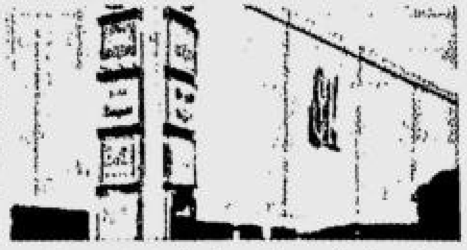
SM City LUCENA

mall hours: 10am - 10pm

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4528, Series of 2004

Per DTI-Quezon Permit No. 096, Series of 2004

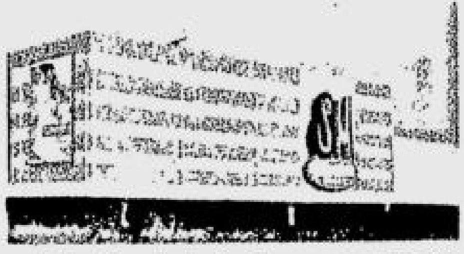
shopping delights in SM CITY STA. MESA SALE



Get ready to dig into piles and piles of the hottest fashion and novelties at specially marked down prices! Check out the **SM Department Store** for great discounts on shoes, sandals, bags, accessories, stationeries, undergarments and much more. Find out for yourself and discover a real shopping bliss in every corner. SM City Sta. Mesa (SM Centerpoint) is surely a haven for the young and the unusual.

More stuff awaits you at the Bazaar outside the mall's entrance (North Arcade Area facing Ramon Magsaysay Avenue).

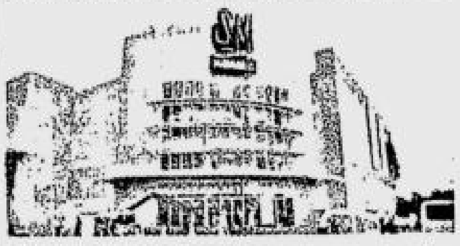
value-packed weekend in SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT



Bring the whole family as you shop for loads of discounts at the SUPER SM HYPERMARKET! Take advantage of specially marked down prices on fresh meat and veggies, canned goods, assorted fruits and processed delicacies over a wide selection of local and imported brands! Never to forget the line up of fashion casuals, beauty products, personal care products, household and kitchen appliances, furnishings and more! SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT also houses big names in fashion and fastfood!

Shopping hours is extended til 11pm on September 18, Sat. at SM Supercenter Sucat.

newest shopping trip in CAVITE



Come to the newest shopping destination in Cavite and discover the contemporary charms of SM CITY DASMARIÑAS! Strategically situated on Governor's Drive, Barangay Sampalok in Dasmariñas, the mall opened just last May 21 as the 18th SM Supermall in the country.

Rush to DASMARIÑAS CITY during the 3-DAY SALE for really great buys at SM Department Store, SM Supermarket, SM Appliance Center, Ace Hardware, Surplus Shop, Our Home and other fashion shops mallwide!

Get a chance to WIN! SkyStar

WIN one of 5 SKYSTAR SCOOTERS for a single or accumulated purchase worth P500 at SM Department Store, SM Supermarket, Super SM Hypermarket or at participating mall establishments.

Raffle Draw is on September 19, 2004 at 10:00 pm at SM City Sta. Mesa, SM Supercenter Sucat, and SM City Dasmariñas.

GREAT LUCENA SALE

Shopping will never be the same again as you come to SM CITY LUCENA's 3-DAY SALE on September 17, 18 and 19! Double the fun and excitement as you shop for real bargains plus a chance to win exciting prizes during the sale raffle!

Every P200 pesos single or accumulated purchase (cash or charge) from SM Department Store, SM Supermarket or from any participating mall establishments (food or non-food) entitles the customer to (1) raffle coupon.

Get a chance to WIN

LG Life's Good One of 15 Washing Machines

Draw Time: 9pm daily on Sept. 17, 18 and 19

Venue: SM City Lucena Entertainment Plaza

FREE Pigeon Baby Wipes with a minimum of P100 single receipt purchase- only at the SM FoodCourt.

The Artist Abroad

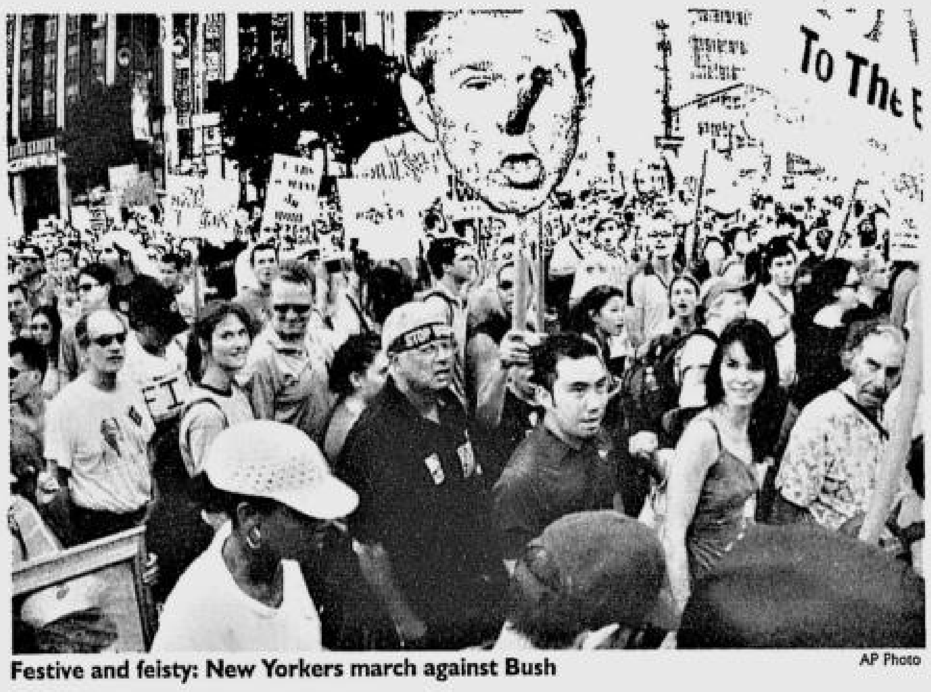
By Luis H. Francia

Bread and Circus

For Republicans to choose this city for their convention was seen as an unbridled, hubris-filled challenge, and an obvious ploy to exploit the memory of 9/11. How did New Yorkers respond to this challenge? With élan, imagination and bravery

NEW YORK—Almost three weeks ago, the Republican National Circus, I mean, Convention, finally folded its big tent, and its herd of elephants, after having trumpeted themselves hoarse for four days, departed, much to the relief of New Yorkers. For a whole week Manhattan was in a state of lockdown; cops were everywhere, most heavily around Madison Square Garden, where the phalanxes of police and federal agents made sure the well-scripted circus, especially its main act—the re-coronation of King George W—took place amidst the cheers of the party faithful. And a few jeers as well: Some protesters managed to sneak into the inner sanctum, having somehow obtained delegates' credentials. Once in, they were able to shout out their hearty disapproval of the Bush agenda—one that favors big corporations like Halliburton even as 43.8 million Americans lack health insurance—before being hustled away by security, but not before their protests registered on national television.

New York is a Democratic town, where Democrats outnumber Republicans 5 to 1. For Republicans therefore to choose the city for their convention was seen as an unbridled, hubris-filled challenge, and an obvious ploy to exploit the memory of 9/11, coming two weeks before the third anniversary and barely three miles from the World Trade Center site. How did New Yorkers respond to this challenge? With élan, imagination and bravery. To so many these might seem, understandably, the worst of times, but for one week New Yorkers were determined to make them the best of times, too, protest-wise, by delivering a message to the whole world that was unmistakable: that, in spite of an asinine plea from former mayor Ed Koch, who pleaded "to make nice" (this was New York, who was he kidding?), Bush's party was not welcome, that the war on Iraq was not welcome, that Bush's tax cuts for the wealthy were not welcome, that the diminution of our civil liberties was not welcome. Nor were the continuing depredations on the environment and the reduction in social services for the less fortunate in society—a segment that has only grown under Bush's reign. Above all, that Bush himself was most emphatically not welcome.



Festive and feisty: New Yorkers march against Bush

AP Photo

The biggest unwelcome mat for the RNC rolled out on Sunday, just before the convention's first day, when half a million people of all colors and walks of life—the largest protest in the history of American political conventions—took to the streets in an orderly fashion, starting from 14th Street and heading past the Garden, then east to and down Fifth Avenue to Union Square, a 2.2-mile raucous river of flesh all the way. The diversity and enthusiasm of the throngs made for a deafening and exhilarating repudiation of a government that views war as a way of life (as one poster put it, this is, paraphrasing politely, rather like engaging in sex in order to attain virginity). No question that war puts bread on the plates of big business, but at a terrible price to humanity.

Indeed, the convention reeked of macho rhetoric, with venomous, sleazy attacks on John Kerry's patriotism—and these, from chicken hawks who love to talk the talk but whose past has been a refusal to walk the walk when it came to serving the country during the Vietnam War (unlike Kerry, who served for two tours of duty), as in the case of Vice President Cheney, who secured five deferments. His reason? He had "other priorities." As for the fearless commander-in-chief, records now show that he was able to get into the Texas Air Guard, so he wouldn't have to face the Vietnamese, through family connections. Rather than honor the tragedy and spirit of 9/11, the RNC cheapened and debased it.

Initially the protest rally was to have been held at Central Park, the jewel in the crown of New York's green spaces, but the city denied the rally organizer, United for Peace and Justice, permission to stage it there, citing potential damage to the park's Great Lawn. Peaceable citizens would have been protesters on the grass, alas for the grass (according to the city). Who would have thought grass voted in this city? No such objections are raised of course for rock or classical concerts held in the same space; nor were any raised against the Central Park anti-nuclear proliferation rally in 1982, when an estimated 500,000 people gathered in the park—an event that did no lasting damage to it. The refusal of a permit was a highly publicized reminder of how in this fear-addled, neo-conservative climate, property takes precedence over people's constitutional right to free expression.

The Sunday march was the opening, albeit the biggest, act in a weeklong series of protest events, ranging from a "Die-In," where participants laid down on the streets to mimic the war dead, to the unemployment line, a single-file of 5,000 out-of-work individuals that stretched from Wall Street to midtown, to the Axis of Eve, a group of women who stripped to their underwear, on which were emblazoned such anti-Bush slogans as "Lick Bush." The mood all week was festive and feisty, celebratory and confrontational, mirthful and mournful—a fine reminder that in a city that is a Babel of tongues, dissent and contradiction are two of the most polished ones.

Note: *In my last column, "Theater of the Absurd," I mistakenly identified Bay Area immigration scholar Robyn Rodriguez as "he" when it should have been "she." My apologies to Ms. Rodriguez*

Controversies

By Tinna S. Bonifacio

Doods, Where's My DVD?

How serious is newly appointed OMB boss Edu Manzano about his controversial crackdown on the video pirates?

"WE were on the second floor. Then all of a sudden, I heard someone scream '*Tulong* (help)!' so we ran upstairs. When we got there, we saw that three of our guys had been beaten up. One of them even had a cracked skull. *Biyak talaga ang bungo,*" recalls Edu Manzano.

No, the actor is not talking about a scene from one of his movies, but the controversial and bloody Virra Mall raid on pirated movies of August 28. During the raid—which lasted all of 20 minutes—the actor-turned-Optical Media Board (OMB) chief and his team were reportedly jeered and pelted with plastic cups as they exited the building.

A news account of the raid reported that when the vendors began pelting the raiding team, Manzano and the agents, some of them allegedly toting rifles and pistols, ran back upstairs to accost the vendors. As they rushed upstairs, women started screaming, tables were knocked over, and vendors and shoppers scampered off in different directions. There was a brief scuffle, and one male vendor, blood dripping down his shirt, was later taken in for questioning. The injured were taken to the nearby Cardinal Santos Memorial Hospital for treatment.

Over a glass of Diet Coke after his hosting duties on ABS-CBN's "Magandang Tanghali, Bayan," Manzano talks about the raid, which did seem like something straight out of an action movie. "It turned out rather violent," he admits. "Six people were injured, and four were hospitalized. It's also true that we were jeered. I remember hearing someone shout, '*Isang granada ka lang* (it will just take one grenade to finish you off)!' but that was only as we were leaving the building. We were not stoned or pelted with plastic cups. There was no gun pointing at all. If we had guns, and used them, *bakit ang daming nabugbog sa amin* (how come so many of us sustained injuries)?"

The "agents" who got beaten up were actually not agents; they were "*hakot* boys" (so-called because their job is to seize pirated CDs, VCDs and DVDs and throw them into sacks during raids) and movie stuntmen hired by the OMB "because they're strong and they move fast." They were wearing OMB T-shirts, but were not carrying any guns, according to their chief.

Manzano, who is licensed to carry a firearm, had a gun on him that day, but claims he didn't use it. "Why would I need to use a gun? I'm a fourth-degree black-belter and a two-time national champion in judo. I can defend myself if I have to. *Hindi totoo na nanutok kami ng baril* (It's not true that we pointed guns at people).

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

"We're not going to give up without a fight"

To page 7

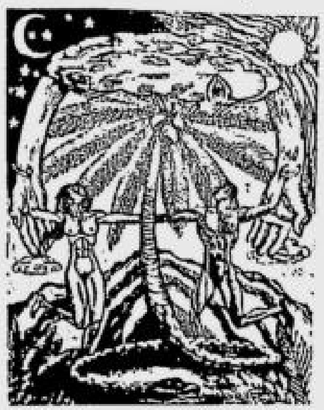
This Week

Art

Cultural Foreground, a solo exhibit by Waling Waling Gorospe focusing on riveting images of cultural minorities, the elders of Kalinga and Besao, until Sept. 26 at Finale Art Gallery, 4/L, SM Megamall A.

Benjamin Isla Cabangis presents a new array of abstract paintings in **Imprints**, until Sept. 30 at Mag:net Gallery, Paseo Center, cor. Paseo and Sedeno Sts., Makati. For details, call 817-7895.

Social realist painter, printmaker and editorial cartoonist Neil Doloricon brings to fore his latest print works in ***Alamat*** at Mag:net Gallery QC, The Loop, ELJ Center, ABS-CBN compound, until Oct. 15. For details, call 410-0995.



Neil Doloricon's *"Bathala, Ulilang Kalulua at Galang Kalulua,"* on view at Mag:net QC

Music

Bykes Çafé and Dance Studio travels back in time as it presents the hottest and the best retro bands in town: Men in Gold back-to-back with Guarana on Mondays; Latin sensation Mai Castro Y La Banda (Tuesdays); Cool Change (Wednesdays); Circus Band (The 2004 Edition) on Thursdays; Mai Castro Y La Banda returns on Fridays, and Rhythm and Babes and Beats and Pieces (Fridays). Bykes Café is at La Fuerza Building II, 2241 Chino Roces Ave., Makati City. Shows start at 9 p.m. For details, call 750-0622 to 23.

Ayen Munji-Laurel releases her second album, **Thankful**, with the carrier single "Kailan Nga Ba?" Ayen will be touring SM malls to promote the album on the following dates: SM North Edsa on Sept. 14, SM Southmall on Sept 25, SM Manila on Sept. 26, SM Cebu on Oct. 2, SM Iloilo on Oct. 3, SM Bacoor on Oct. 9 and SM Baguio on Oct. 16. On Nov. 19, Ayen will have a special concert at the GSIS Theater.

In commemoration of the 17th death anniversary of student leader Lean Alejandro and the 22nd anniversary of the declaration of martial law, a **fund-raising concert** will be held on Sept. 20, 7 p.m. at the Conspiracy Garden Café, 59 Visayas Ave., Quezon City. Proceeds will be used to build a memorial called "Pathway of Martyrs and Heroes" on the grounds of UP Diliman. Tickets available at P200. For inquiries, call 920-8949.

Waling Waling Gorospe's "Cultural Foreground," on exhibit at Finale Art Gallery

Cinema

The UP Film Institute in Diliman, Quezon City premieres Michael Moore's **Fahrenheit 9/11**, on Sept. 26 at 7 p.m. Premiere admission at discounted rate awaits interested moviegoers. For tickets, drop by the 2nd Floor administrative office of UP Film Institute along Magsaysay Avenue, UP Campus, Diliman, QC or call 926-3640.

The Japan Foundation Manila presents **Eiga Sai 2004** which features contemporary Japanese films to be shown at the CCP Dream Theater screening on Sept. 29 at the CCP Little Theater at 7 p.m. Regular screenings will be shown at the CCP Dream Theater from Sept. 30 to Oct. 3, The Podium on Oct. 6 and at the SM Megamall from Oct. 7 to 12. A highlight of the opening ceremony is the screening of "Waterboys." Other films to be featured are "twilight Samurai," "Don't Look Back," "Give It All," "Hush" and "Juvenile." Admission is free. For inquiries, call 811-6155.

Onstage

Koine Theater Foundation presents David Ives' **Philadelphia** and award-winning playwright Niel de Mesa's **Starring Ms. Lea Salonda**. Shows on Sept. 25 and will stretch every Friday and Saturday of October (1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23, 29 and 30), 7:30 p.m. at The Quickstep Studio 2/F Forab Bldg., 121 Kamuning Road. Reserved seating only. Call 410-4485 for ticket reservations.

Atbp

Party with your favorite magical as Will, Irma, Taranee, Cornelia and Hay Lin celebrate their birthdays on Sept. 25, from 1-7 p.m. at the Expo Exchange, Greenbelt 1, Makati. The **WITCH Birthday Blast** has lined up lots of fun activities for kids such as interactive booths, thrilling contests, an enchanting fashion show and spectacular surprises for all loyal readers of WITCH.

Learn the basics in designing methods and fashion illustration as JSB Center of Arts offers a new course, **An Introduction to Fashion Designing**. For inquiries, call Raquel at 724-2366.

World Teach's Teaching with Style seminar-workshop will be held on Sept. 26 at the ACCM Building, 102 Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City. Seminar fee is P795 inclusive of workbook, snacks and certificate. For reservations, call 829-5711.

September Events at Powerbooks: Learn to create delectable dishes with a series of cooking demos from Good Housekeeping every Saturday of the month from 2-5 p.m. at Powerbooks Live, Greenbelt 4. Teachers from Cambridge pre-school will conduct crafts and storytelling sessions for kids on Sept. 25, 3 p.m. at Powerbooks Megamall. Business One presents a Super Vision seminar at Powerbooks Greenbelt at 1:30 p.m. Fans of Da Vinci Code will have a discussion group on Sept. 24, 7 p.m. at Powerbooks Greenbelt. Informatics gives free short computer classes: Adobe Photoshop on Sept. 22 (Powerbooks Megamall) and Sept. 24 (Alabang), and Master Macromedia on Sept. 29 (Greenbelt). Classes at 6 p.m. Hands On Manila teaches you to help those in need during your free time. Attend their Volunteer Orientation on Sept. 30, 6 p.m. at Powerbooks Megamall.

With the aim of encouraging children to take part in disaster preparedness activities, the Citizens' Disaster Response Center is once more conducting its annual poster-making contest for children dubbed as ***Apoy, Bagyo, Kalamidad, Dibuhong Pambata***. There are two categories designed for different age brackets. Category A is for children ages 7-9 and category B for ages 10-12. Kids can submit up to two entries only. They should depict how children can take part in disaster preparedness. Cash prizes await winners. Deadline has been extended to Sept. 25. For details, call 927-7860 or 929-9822.

"Waterboys," the highlight film at the Eiga Sai 2004 film festival

For this week's bands and schedules call:

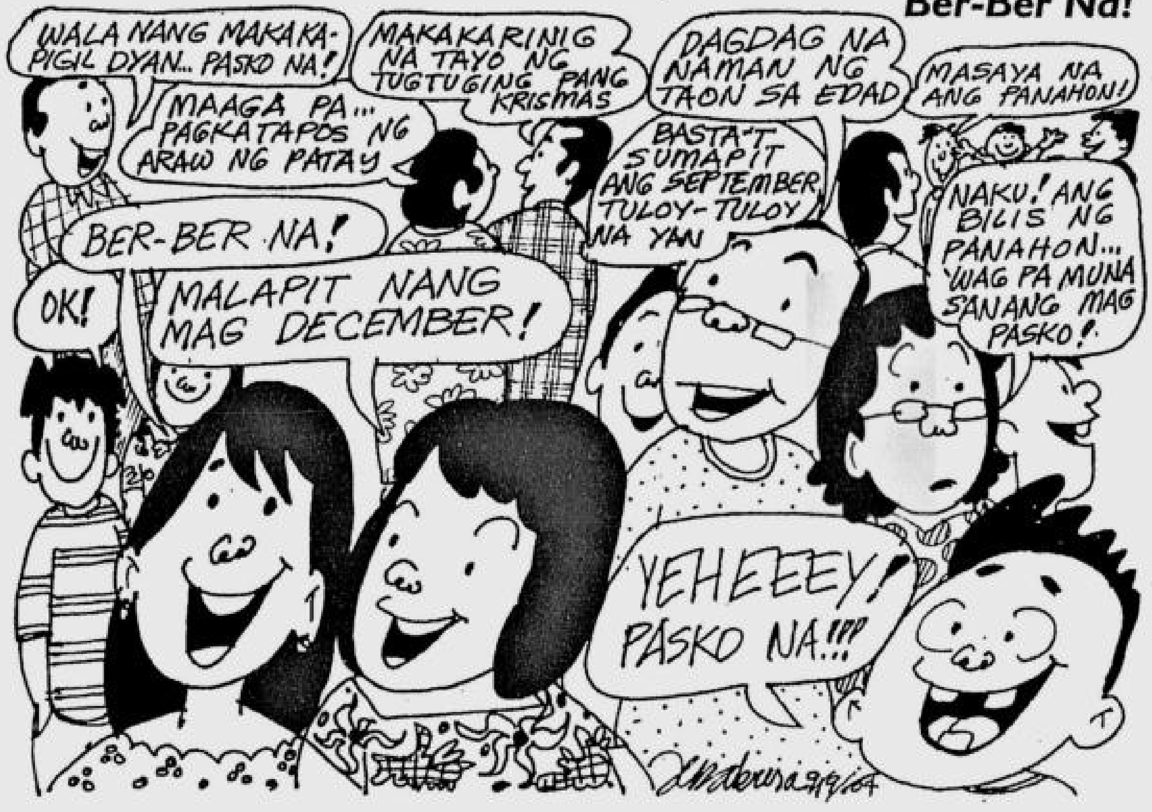
- Hard Rock Café (893-4662-65)
- Virgin Café : QC (926-7982)
- '70s Bistro: 46 Anonas St., QC (922-0492)
- Hobbit House: 1801 Mabini St., Malate, Manila (521-7604)
- Strumm's: El Pueblo, Ortigas (637-3009)

The SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules

Pinoy Nga!

By Jess Abrera

Ber-Ber Na!



WALA NANG MAKAKAPIGIL DYAN.. PASKO NA!
MAAGA PA... PAGKATAPOS NG ARAW NG PATAY
MAKAKARINIG NA TAYO NG TUGTUGING PANG KRISMAS
DAGDAG NA NAMAN NG TAON SA EDAD
MASAYA NA ANG PANAHON!
BASTA'T SUMAPIT ANG SEPTEMBER TULOY-TULOY NA YAN
BER-BER NA!
OK!
MALAPIT NANG MAG DECEMBER!
NAKU! ANG BILIS NG PANAHON... 'WAG PA MUNA SANANG MAG PASKO!
YEHEEEY! PASKO NA!!!
JAbrera 9/9/04

Doods ...from page 6

We were not the aggressors during the raid. *Pero napagbintangan pa rin ako* (but I am still being blamed)," he says.

But he admits that because of the spread of piracy, conventional raids, such as the one they did on Virra Mall (which netted some 47,000 pirated discs, 27 percent of which were adult and child porn), may no longer be enough to control it.

"Piracy's tentacles have spread, and now it's affecting the economy," says Manzano. "It just keeps getting worse, so we have to be more creative and utilize our intelligence sources more."

Manzano used to be president of the Actors Guild before being appointed to head the OMB, which replaced the old Videogram Regulatory Board then headed by actor and now Senator Bong Revilla. As president of the Actors Guild, Manzano saw, first-hand, how piracy practically killed the local movie industry. The industry, he points out, used to produce about 200 films a year. "That was five or six years ago. This year, we haven't even reached 40 films, and it's already September," he says. "A lot of actors are out of work, or aren't working regularly. Being an actor, I know this for a fact."

The problem is not confined to the Philippines. According to estimates, the US film industry lost $3.4 billion to piracy last year. "And that's excluding computer downloads," says Manzano, shaking his head.

Certain lobby groups in the US are already pressing the Philippines to do something about the rampant piracy problem and not just of movies, software, music and games, but counterfeit products in general. "We're talking here of $600 million to $800 million worth of quotas. The US just might close its doors to Philippine products if we're not able to do anything about this," adds the OMB chief.

Another thing that worries this father of three is that many of the pornographic discs they have seized during raids feature children in compromising positions. The exploitation of children who appear in these films is another reason piracy must be snuffed out, and fast, he says.

"I know that by going after the retailers, we deprive people of work and the chance to earn an income," says Manzano. "But you have to look at the larger picture. If we allow piracy to continue, it's not just one group of people who will be affected. It's a lot: actors, producers, the crew, studios, processing laboratories, legitimate replicating plants, legitimate retailers, and audio-video distributors. They also have families to feed, just like the retailers."

The solution: cut off the supply line. Eighty five percent of the DVDs sold in the Philippines come from outside sources, including Indonesia, Malaysia and China. With the cooperation of people from Customs, the OMB has been able to intercept planes and boats coming from these countries with loads of pirated discs. Manzano says that once, they intercepted a boat off the coast of Cagayan de Oro carrying P6.5 million worth of pirated DVDs.

There are also people who import replicating machines that can produce thousands of copies of one DVD. To address the problem, the OMB, with the help of the Bureau of Customs, which has jurisdiction over the country's ports of entry, has stopped issuing licenses for people to import these replicating machines. Now, people have to show contracts, issued by legitimate distributors, before they are allowed to import the replicating machines.

But it's not enough to just take away the licenses. Manzano acknowledges that it's possible for a distributor to order 10,000 copies then make 20,000 more copies for the black market. "The excess production of 10,000 copies is not subject to taxes or overhead," he says.

Manzano says he knows he is fighting a losing battle despite the weekly raids. During the Virra Mall raid, the stalls that they closed re-opened 45 minutes later and were doing brisk business. The same scenario is repeated in malls and commercial outlets all over the country. "It's going to be very, very hard to eradicate piracy," he acknowledges. "What we need to do is create an atmosphere under which legitimate vendors and distributors can openly compete."

The OMB has done this by encouraging distributors to lower their prices. Outlets like Video City, Astrovision and Astroplus have enticed buyers with original VCDs for as low as P75 each, or P150, buy one, take one. At the Astroplus store at The Podium, original DVDs of films like "Little Women" and "The Postman Always Rings Twice" are selling for P299 each, a big drop from the usual prices of P700-P1,500 per DVD.

The move already has a positive effect. Before, distributors of pirated films would tell the retailers to just pay after the DVD has been sold. "Now, they're demanding money up front," says Manzano.

But he promises that despite the positive developments, the fight against piracy will continue. "The situation is getting worse, so we have to double our efforts. We're not going to give up without a fight."

The Word

By Fr. Ruben J. Villote

Turning 22

As it celebrates its 22nd year this month, the Center for Migrant Youth looks back at five generations of youth who have come in from the cold

CMY is simply a "welcome shed" in the city for provincial vagrants (age 15-20) who have been displaced in the city and abused by city-dwellers. It started as a halfway shelter for young rehabilitated first-offenders and mentally impaired out-patients who have no relatives here.

CMY serves as a place of prayer and discernment for battered youths—a space where they can quietly grieve and heal their wounds, and from where they are gently urged to move on and face what remains of their young lives.

Many wards of CMY have gone on to greater things

CMY also discreetly welcomes so-called "footloose" street people, especially children and youth, to spend rainy nights and take a meal or two with us, to take a badly needed bath and to wash and dry their clothes before they return to the streets again.

The Center deliberately remains a small community of 20 residents at a time, formerly unwashed and unwanted migrant and street youth who have accepted our invitation to go back to school (primary, secondary and college), and who have managed to prove their worth.

We have "graduated" at least five generations of CMYers who started as street bums—abandoned, lonely and hopeless. They have nevertheless strived to get up again to become seafarers, overseas workers, educators, professional drivers, computer technicians, small entrepreneurs and entertainers, among other trades.

There are still about nine in college taking up Criminology, Law, Nursing, Hotel and Restaurant Management, Computer Engineering, Electronics and Communication Engineering and Medical Technology. The rest are still in the elementary and secondary levels. Three of them, by the way, have dared to enter the seminary: one is already a Franciscan monk.

We thank those who have helped CMY to sustain our mission in whatever way they can. There are two components: Sustenance and Education Assistance. Sustenance pertains to the physical maintenance and upkeep of our house, while Education Assistance refers to the scholarship needs of CMY residents.

There are no fixed donations required. Just give like "giving alms to the poor" from your heart, and CMY will be grateful. You may give periodically or "once and for all," and CMY will be grateful too.

God knows your heart, and He will be faithful to you. Just think of us loving you and remembering you when we pray.

* * *

The Center For Migrant Youth invites you to its 22nd Anniversary, September 26 (26th Sunday in Ordinary Time). There's a Eucharistic celebration at 9 a.m., at CMY 103 Cordillera St., SMH, Quezon City.

Let us come and worship with grateful hearts. Our guest is the Most Rev. Honesto F. Ongtioco, D.D. Bishop of Cubao.

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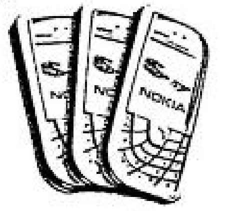

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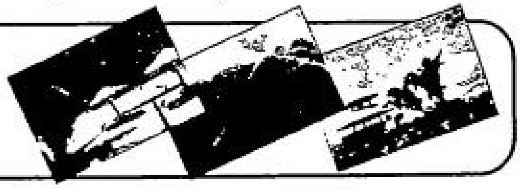

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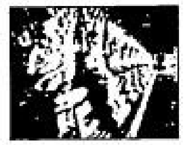
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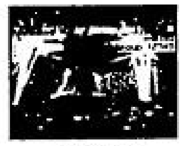
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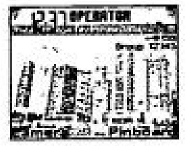
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